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Begg & Co
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Brown, C B
Bawden, J
Bell, W, 2

Conklin, J H
Clanton, R T
Cottrell, A
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Fanning, J
Fox, G R
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King, T

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Postmaster.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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Barnard's Express, - - - - Quesnelle, B. C
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THE BIG BEND.

The news which we publish to-day from Big Bend is the most cheering of any intelligence yet received in the colony, not even excepting the announcement of the discovery of Cariboo. It is cheering, not so much because it has enabled a certain number of miners to take out large amounts of gold, but because it discloses to us the fact that the most extensive as well as least expensive mines yet opened out in British Columbia, or probably in any country north of California, are now discovered. So far as is yet known the gold region extends over a hundred miles; the sinking is shallow; the ground rich; and the mines comparatively easily reached. Here are facts that ought, under proper management, to attract the largest population that has yet visited the neighboring colony. From all the accounts we have received, and they are almost strangely unanimous, there is but one conclusion to come to, and that is that the greatest gold mining region in any country on the Pacific has been discovered. This is no idle assertion. If we take the statements of those men who have had practical mining experience at Big Bend, we find that the average yield of the gold fields when opened is computed at from half an ounce to four ounces a day per hand. It is needless to say that no gold mining country in the world can equal this. California nor Australia, nor Montana nor Idaho, cannot pretend to a comparison. Let us, therefore, make the most of our position. Let us take a leaf from our American neighbors and *advertise* our mineral wealth. Portland got the lion's share, and still gets it, of all the traffic north of her State. When she had the longest route to the Rock Creek, the Kootenay, and even the Big Bend, she managed to secure nearly all the travel and all the traffic that went to those places. At present our advantages over Oregon in competition for supplying any mining region in British Columbia are beyond question; and yet the enterprise of our neighbors is gradually counterbalancing this good fortune. As we informed our readers a few days ago, a steamer is built and no doubt now running between Colville and within thirty miles of French Creek. This brings Walla Walla within pretty easy distance of the new gold fields, and will no doubt give the Oregon people a monopoly of the traffic, if a steamer is not placed on the Shuswap and Kamloops lakes by April next. If this latter be done; if Mr. Wright who, we believe, has obtained the exclusive privilege of putting on a steamer, can manage to run his boat early in the spring, we shall have all the travel; and it will be immense, if the two Governments only see that the advantages of our position as well as the richness and inexpensive character of our new mines, are laid properly before the California public. If we can show to the California miner that for a reasonably small amount he can reach Victoria and from thence to the gold fields in nine or ten days, and that these gold fields when reached will afford him the opportunity of making from eight to sixty dollars a day, we shall have a large and energetic population travelling through this city as soon as spring sets in. And we can show all this. With direct steam communication, we bring the miner from San Francisco in four days; five or six more will then take him to Carnes and French creeks, where, unless all the narratives from the energetic class of men who have been working there this summer are false, he will be able to make more money, with a less expenditure, than in any other gold region in the world. Let us not, therefore, lose sight of the position in which we stand. From Walla Walla to Colville is a distance of two hundred and fifty miles of a very bad country. Fifty miles of the way is in fact so bad that pack animals cannot attempt to cross it until the middle of May. Then when we come to the boat travel; out of the two hundred and fifty miles on the Columbia River, seventy-five are full of navigable difficulties. Counting the distance from where the steamer lands the passenger to the mines, the navigable reach on the Columbia River, and the road from Colville to Walla Walla, we have the total distance about five hundred and thirty miles, nearly three hundred of which is land travel. Now if we take the Fraser river route and set Yale against Walla Walla, we have to Kamloops lake one hundred and fourteen miles of land travel; then a navigable stretch of one hundred and thirty miles to the end of Shuswap lake; and from thence to the mines about seventy miles, giving altogether a distance of three hundred and thirty-four miles or nearly two hundred miles less than the Colville route. When to this we add the very significant advantage of being able to reach the mines, which it is said can be worked in March, nearly two months earlier in the year than can be done on the Oregon route, we may safely calculate on the *whole* of the trade, if we make the proper exertions.

WHEREABOUTS OF CONFEDERATE GENERALS—A Southern paper gives the following account of the whereabouts of the leading officers of the late rebel army: General Loring is in Jackson (Miss.) with the intent to go to New Orleans and engage in mercantile pursuits. General Gardiner has taken up his residence in New Orleans, and gone into business with General Bragg. General Joe Johnston will probably receive the appointment of President of the principal railroad companies in Alabama or Georgia. General Hardee was the recipient in Mobile the other day of a handsome compliment in the shape of a dinner, tendered him by several of the United States officers on duty at that post. General Longstreet, who arrived in Mobile a few days ago, has been pardoned by the President. General Lee has entered upon his duties as President of Washington College (Va). Jubal Early is an applicant for pardon. General Forrest is reported to be managing a saw-mill somewhere in the interior of Mississippi. General Stewart, who commanded a corps in Hood's army, designs going to New Orleans to practice law. General Magruder is reported to be in Germany with his family. General John G. Walker is in England—so it is reported. Kirby Smith, at last dates, was at Matanzas, in bad health. General Hindman is practicing law in Mexico. The New Orleans *Picayune* says: "We catch a glimpse now and then, on the street, of several other officers who held the rank of Brigadier or Major General in the late Confederate army, who are hard at work now at one or another branch of business. The majority of them are old residents, either of the city or the State."

AN UNWELCOME VISITOR.—An affair occurred lately at the President's house. A man somewhat inebriated called and desired to see the President. He was boisterous and officer Crook refused him admittance up stairs. He became very disorderly and was put out of the Executive mansion. When about fifty feet from the door he turned and drew a revolver on the officer, when the guard made a lunge at him with his bayonet, and he was captured and taken before Justice Walker, who fined him the enormous sum of $2,000 for carrying concealed weapons. Having no money he was committed. He gave his name as Robbins Sumner, and said he was a brother of General Sumner. He came from Alexandria, and his name is probably an alias.

THE ROUTE TO BIG BEND.—We understand that Mr. Wright has obtained the contract offered by the British Columbian Government for the construction of a steamboat to ply between the western extremity of Kamloops Lake and the upper or eastern end of Shuswap Lake, in connection with the wagon road proposed to be made from Ashcroft or thereabouts to Savana's Ferry on Kamloop's Lake. The contractor will have the exclusive privilege of conveying passengers and freight at fixed rates between those points. It is further stated that Mr. Wright will at once procure the necessary machinery from this quarter or San Francisco.

ON THE TRACK—We learn from passengers by the Enterprise that a clue has been discovered to the murderer of the Scotchman named John Morgan, an employe of the Telegraph Company, who it will be remembered was recently butchered at the side of his camp, below Soda Creek. It appears that an Indian known as Yale Jim, who had been engaged in packing, offered a watch for sale to Mrs. Ritchie, of Canoe Creek, that was recognised as the property of the deceased. Information was conveyed to William's Creek, and the constable immediately started in pursuit of the culprit.

AN OLD TRUMP.—In Plattsburg, recently, the census takers found a French Canadian, aged 106 years, living in domestic felicity with his wife, 11 years younger. They have lived together 78 years.

THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE contains the Royal confirmation of the appointment o Henry Wakeford, Esq., as Auditor General of this colony.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday after a splendid run of six hours from New Westminster with 73 passengers and a Cariboo Express. She was detained on the passage up by a snow storm and lay in Plumper's Pass until Saturday morning.

The steamer Lillooet also arrived shortly before the Enterprise from New Westminster with about 40 passengers.

The *Columbian* of Saturday contains no telegraphic or other intelligence of interest.

The Hon. Mr. Brew returned from Chilliwhack on Wednesday, reporting that the Indians evinced no desire to be unreasonable in respect of the land dispute with the settlers and did not appear unwilling to go the rear of the white men.

A petition from the settlers to the Government on the subject was talked of.

FROM CARIBOO.

From a party who left Richfield two weeks ago we gather the following information:

Four companies were at work on the side hill, opposite Richfield, and had everything in order to enable them to work during the whole winter. The Cornish Company were running a drift some twenty feet from the bed of the creek and were averaging from $10 to $15 a day to the hand. The California Company were sinking a shaft on the line of the Cornish claim; they had struck five feet from the surface a stratum of gravel (already five feet deep, the bed rock being yet untouched) prospecting as high as $2 to the pan. The Statesman Company were making on an average $10 daily to the hand. Fuller's old claim which had been jumped by a party, was paying about the same as the latter.

According to our informant the population of the creek was 600 souls, all told.

BURNES' CREEK.

Mollerd & Co., had commenced finding pay. Two days before our informant left they had picked up a nugget weighing $52.

The *Columbian* has the following:

The steamers Onward and Lillooet arrived from Yale last evening with respectively 75 and 35 passengers. Our advices from Cariboo are to the 22d inst., but are unimportant. The weather was sharp and pleasant—two inches of snow having fallen. Six claims were still being worked, viz: Prince of Wales, Adams, Hart & Co., Davis & Co., Cameron, Dead Broke. Markets unchanged. Two Chinamen were killed on Thursday near Boston Bar by the falling of a tree.

LATEST MINING NEWS.

From Mr. Wm. Farron, who left the creek on the 24th November, we obtain the following intelligence:

WILLIAMS CREEK.

The companies at work were the Oram, Dead Broke, Cornish, Australian, Welsh, Cameron (doubtful), and Foster-Campbell. A cave had taken place in the latter company's shaft. A French company of four men were sinking a shaft opposite the smithery at Richfield. The Dead Broke, Cameron, Oram, and the Australian would probably work through the winter. The Wake up Jake Company were drowned out on the 14th, and the Bald Head and Sheepskin shafts were full of water.

The Yellow Virgin Company were frozen out on the 15th, and the claim was laid over for the winter. The law suit instituted against them by the Aurora Company had been decided by Judge Cox in favor of the Yellow Virgin Company, giving them the benefit of the 1182 ounces that had been taken by them out of the ground and deposited in the bank pending the Judge's decision. The gross dividends yielded by this claim since the first week in October have been about $11,000 to the interest, the various expenses incurred reducing that amount to about $6000.

The foreman of the Cornish Company told our informant before he left that they had washed out on the 23d $700, and if they continued as they had commenced would be able to declare a week's dividend of $500. This is considered a good hydraulic claim.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Captain Evans had obtained a contract for 600 feet of the Bedsrock flume, and had some men busy at work at it.

The Bed-rock drain will be pushed forward through the winter.

Mr. Greig of the Bank of British Columbia reached the Creek on the 23d. Mr. Ormandy, the messenger was met on his way up at Soda Creek.

There was about nine inches of snow between Williams Creek and Van Winkle, and none below Cottonwood. The weather was intensely cold. A law suit was pending between Van Bleck and Steele (a colored man). The former claimed from the latter a half interest in the Yellow Virgin Co., and in support of his claim produced an alleged bill of sale of the whole interest. Steele, who is an illiterate man, repudiated the deed, alleging that he believed he was putting his mark to a power of attorney in favor of Van Bleck to represent his interest, and that the deed was covered over when he signed it.

Mr. Blunt and several others were to leave the Creek on the 25th.

Mr. Farron came with a party of others all the way from Soda Creek to Yale in a canoe. He describes the river scenery as grand beyond description, but the trip is too dangerous to be recommended to any one. At Boothroyd's eighteen inches of snow had fallen, the weather being colder than on Williams Creek.

FROM BRIDGE RIVER.

From a miner who arrived on Saturday from Lillooet we learn that two miners who had been prospecting on Bridge River only sixteen miles from Lillooet had just returned bringing back about an ounce of shot gold. They reported that they could make from $4 to $5 a day to the hand sluicing where they worked. John Mackintosh and three others had gone thirty miles higher up the river to try the rich diggings supposed to exist there.

Later from Big Bend.

From Mr. D. W. Smith, who left Big Bend on the 15th November, we have the following interesting information respecting these promising diggings.

Mr. Smith, who has a claim on Carnes Creek, where he has been working during the summer, came over the divide by the Government trail to the head of the Shuswap Lake, a distance of thirty-five miles. The trail is very good for a mountain trail, and can be walked easily with a pack in two days. Small lake boats run from thence to Savana's ferry, which takes an additional two days.

THE BIG BEND DIGGINGS.

Mr. Smith, who was one of the pioneers of the diggings, having travelled with Carnes, after whom one of the creeks is named, and reached the diggings on the 30th April last, states from his experience that he is of opinion that a range of country, say from 100 to 120 miles, exists there that will pay from half an ounce to four ounces a day when properly opened to the hand. The party prospected on their way up and found good prospects, equal to those found in the gravel of any of the creeks now known to be rich.

FRENCH CREEK.

On this creek two companies of 12 to 15 men remained when Mr. Smith left, intending to winter there, sufficient provisions having been brought in to maintain them by Messrs. Smith and Ladner. From 250 to 300 men had been on the creek during the season, some of whom never worked, and returned, reporting that there were no diggings. A good many tried to open claims but did not succeed in doing so before cold weather set in. Dupuy opened a hill claim and took out $2500 in eight days, the biggest day's work being $800 to two hands working on the bench rock. The Half Breed Company, or Discovery Claim (four men), in the creek in one day took out 64 ounces, averaging from two to four ounces to the hand on the bed rock gravel from 8 to 10 feet down. A company working in the gravel, from one to two miles above, averaged from an ounce and a half to two ounces a day to the hand in getting out their tail-race, when their wheel froze up, without expecting to reach the bed rock this fall. Shep. Bayley's Co., three in number, had got out as much as $1600, getting as high as [illegible]

The bed rock on this [illegible] 15 feet deep, coarse and heavy gold being found wherever it was reached. A man who sunk a hole about 4 feet deep 15 miles up the creek obtained a similar prospect of the same kind of gold to that found in the gravel lower down.

CARNES' CREEK.

On this creek 13 men were at work when Mr. Smith left, who found good prospects until they were washed out One man panned out one evening in the loose gravel $9.

The bed rock had not been reached in consequence of the freshet although Mr. Smith's company had got down 36 feet, believing themselves within 10 feet of the bed rock when they stopped sinking. They then washed on a bar getting about $15 to the hand in the loose gravel.

Carnes & Co. (two men) averaged about $30 to the hand in the gravel in the bed of the creek without attempting to sink to the bed rock which they intend to do in the spring.

Chapron & Co., flumed the canyon and panned out about $40 one day on the bed-rock, but their flume was carried away, and they stopped for the season.

Messr. Smith & Co. turned the creek two or three times, and were washed out by heavy rains. Below the dam they got about four bits to the pan in the loose gravel, and believed they could make from about two to three ounces to the hand sluicing.

McCULLOCH'S CREEK.

On this Creek, Barney Reilly & Co., five in number, averaged from two to three ounces per day to the hand, one day making 35 ounces working on the high bed-rock.

On the top of the hill where the creek was level some men prospecting got from four bits to a dollar and a half to the pan in the gravel without reaching the bed rock.

MOBERLY CREEK.

Our informant learnt from Mr. Moberly, who came to New Westminster with him, that he prospected a creek emptying into the Little Shuswap, on which he obtained prospects of from 5 to 8 cents to the pan, on a bar, without using a pick. Mountaineer Perry, one of the pioneers, told Mr. Smith that the prospect was about 10 cents to the pan, and he intended returning there to prospect this fall. He gave it as his opinion from the look of the slate range and the quantity of quartz wash gravel that there were as good diggings there as any that had been prospected.

OTHER CREEKS.

In a creek about 30 miles above the mouth of French Creek emptying into Gold Creek, a man struck a prospect as good as that on any other creek, declaring that he preferred it to French Creek, and intended returning there with provisions to hold his claim.

On other creeks at the mouth of which casual prospects were made, equally good colors were found affording the presumption that as good diggings may be found on other creeks emptying into the Columbia as any that have been tested.

MISCELLANEOUS.

French and Carnes' creeks are large creeks about thirty miles long having plenty of pay dirt and extensive benches. They are about fifty miles apart, the latter being lower down. McCulloch Creek also empties into Gold Creek. Judging from the experience of last Spring the diggings can be worked as early as March, as the earliest prospectors found the ground though covered with snow quite soft when they arrived there in April.

Messrs. Smith (of Smith & Ladner), Romano and McNiel intended engaging a man each to blaze out a pack trail from the terminus of the Government trail on the Columbia to French Creek, good feed for animals existing all the way. The shortest and best route to the diggings is decidedly up the Fraser. The Kamloops and Shuswap Lakes, on which the British Columbian Government intend having a steamer placed are not generally frozen over beyond March, while the lakes on the Columbia River are not open till May, and the Columbia River is a long, tedious and dangerous route to travel.

Gold Creek or River, into which French Creek empties, is about 100 miles in length, and has fine prairie lands on either side producing fine hay. Four men reported having discovered something in the neighborhood of French Creek which they would not exchange for the best discovery in the country. They refused to disclose the secret until they had made themselves secure.

A miner who left Big Bend after our informant told him that six feet of snow lay on the Divide when he crossed over, and was still falling.

One-third of the miners who were at the diggings belong to Colville, and had returned to winter there. A big rush was expected to the diggings in the spring.

Mr. Perry reported having discovered silver ore on Moberly Creek.

PROVISIONS.

The following were the ruling prices of provisions at Big Bend:— Bacon, $1 50 ⅌ lb; Flour, $80 ⅌ 100 lbs; Sugar, $1 50 ⅌ lb; Coffee, $1 50 ⅌ lb; Tea $3 ⅌ lb; Butter, $2 ⅌ lb; Beef, 65c ⅌ lb.

From another informant just arrived from Kamloops we learn that Romano had reached French Creek with 25 mules laden with provisions, which would be a great boon to the miners at Big Bend.

At Kamloops several parties were organising pack trains to convey provisions, drawn by dogs, to Big Bend during the winter. A fine opportunity presents itself here for speculators to make a clean sweep of the superfluous canine species.

Messrs. Dewdney and Mowberly had both returned from Big Bend.

POLICE COURT.

Sophie Colomb, a French woman appeared at the Police Court on Saturday, arrested on a warrant issued by the Magistrate, charged by [illegible]

From the information which was read it appeared that the prisoner went to the St. George hotel at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 30th of November and asked to see Mrs. Bendixen, and went into her room saying that she (Mrs. Bendixen) had spoken ill of her, and threatening to "spoil the pretty face of Mrs. Bendixen" and to kill the prosecutor she having a dagger with her and leaving two impressions of it on the door of the bed room. On a former occasion the prisoner had drawn a dagger on Mr. Bendixen.

Mr. Bendixen did not appear.

Mr. Pemberton said it was a very serious charge and one that he could not pass over lightly; he should remand the prisoner until Monday, taking bail for her appearance, two sureties in the sum of $250 and herself in the sum of $500, and would issue a summons for the appearance of Mr. Bendixen.

The accused said she could disprove the charge; that it was 10 o'clock at night when she went to the St. George, not two in the morning.

A GENERAL SMASH UP—The late storms, we regret to say, will be the occasion of considerable loss and inconvenience to the Telegraph Company. From Oregon our last advices stated that the wires were down on both sides of Portland, the only portions in working order being the few miles between Portland and Fort Vancouver. From British Columbia we learn that the gales have torn the wires to shreds in innumerable places between Yale and New Westminster, while Puget Sound advices state that a similar state of affairs existed between Seattle and New Westminster. Under all these circumstances we are afraid that we shall have, for some time to come, to trust for news from the East to the arrival of the Active and coasting vessels.

LAST OF THE MOHICANS.—The only person left to perpetuate the family name of Daniel Webster is his grandson, Ashburton Webster, a son of Fletcher Webster, who is a very promising young man now in the American navy. Fletcher Webster left two sons and a daughter, the last still living. Edward Webster, Major, who died in Mexico, left no children. There are four other grandchildren by his much beloved Julia, bearing the name of Appleton. This is all of the family of Daniel Webster.

GERMAN IMMIGRANTS.—A Kansas paper reports that two thousand families of Germans and of German descent from Berks county, Pennsylvania, and from the city of St. Louis, have selected extensive tracts of land in the valley of the Solomon, through their agent, Captain Brunswick. The lands selected are in Western Kansas, and are said to be as fine as any in that State.