

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, October 4, 1864.

THE NEWS.

The Eastern intelligence received yesterday by the Eliza Anderson is ten days later than previous advices. From Grant and Sherman the news is by no means startling; but from that ground of Federal retreats, that "Valley of Humiliation," as the Northern papers term it—the Shenandoah—we have the description of a battle that almost brings us back to the terrible conflicts of the Wilderness. While Grant and Lee have been confronting each other in the vicinity of Richmond, they have had no less an eye to the importance of the Shenandoah, and each commander has reduced his army as much as he conveniently could, to reinforce his troops in that quarter. Before the recent fight, the two armies combined could not have had a force much short of ninety thousand men. It is more than probable, however, that the preponderance in numbers was on the side of the North, for Sheridan had been almost continually receiving reinforcements during the last six weeks. When he hurried his forces there against the Southern commander, Early, on the 19th, near Winchester, he overpowered his opponent as much by superiority of numbers as by hard fighting. The Confederates, after an obstinate resistance, gave way; and according to the despatches, fell in the utmost disorder. Sheridan followed up the pursuit with great vigor, and three thousand six hundred prisoners were taken with seventeen pieces of artillery. The latest despatches leave Sheridan, after having defeated the Confederates two days subsequently at Strasburg, at which place they made their last determined stand, still in pursuit at Woodstock, fifteen miles farther down the valley. The news of this victory has created almost as great rejoicing in the North as did the announcement of the capture of Atlanta; not on the ground of its importance in military light to Grant, although Early's defeat will tend to great results in the Richmond operations; but because it has been the first great victory achieved by the Northern arms in the Shenandoah. The effect of Sheridan's success was thus briefly reviewed in the New York Times: "The circumstances of the enemy's defeat leave Early's army in a condition little short of absolute demoralization. Taken in connection with Grant's position before Richmond, it will go far to decide the fate of Lee's army and Richmond. Lynchburg is now the only point in military light to Grant, and has been compelled to keep a large force in the valley, notwithstanding the lack of troops to meet the movement of Grant's fatal menace, which the presence of Sheridan's army in the valley constantly holds forth. He has been forced to submit to them at the peril of the loss of Lynchburg. The army covering that point, has, by Sheridan's splendid success, been disrupted and demoralized. We may look for the execution of that movement in the valley which had been a part of Grant's programme for the capture of Richmond."

For San Juan.—Mr. Foley, late of the Exploring Expedition, is organizing a private prospecting party to proceed to San Juan river, where he is confident of finding good diggings, and also auriferous quartz.

The Eliza Anderson left yesterday afternoon for Port Angeles with several of Capt. Moore's creditors, to endeavor to effect some arrangement with him.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Monday, Sept. 27th. House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present: Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Tolmie, Dickson, Southgate, Street, Duncan, Dennes, Trimble.

THE CITY ELECTION. Mr. Speaker read a letter from Mr. Cruckshank, declining to sit for the city. Mr. DeCosmos asked when the election committee would meet. The Speaker said they could fix their own time. The best course they could pursue would be to order Mr. Cruckshank's return off the file, and declare Mr. Young returned for the seat. On motion of Mr. DeCosmos, seconded by the Speaker to be done. The Speaker added, that the return of Mr. Young was still open to objection for the next fourteen days by any elector.

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

Mr. Dunes, in pursuance of notice moved for a return in detail as to the proceedings in this court. He said, that it was most important to the commercial community that a speedy realization of a bankrupt's estate should be effected. Instances were on record in which assets had been in the hands of the court for weeks, months and years, and then ultimately dwindled away, and were almost entirely gone. The law as at present was similar to that of England, the various amendments passed there from time to time being applicable in this colony. This act, though perfect as regards England, did not fit here. It was essential to ascertain whether any alteration could be made calculated to improve its adaptability to our wants. It was necessary according to English law to have an Accountant General with a regular banking account to show the state of affairs, but it was difficult to say who was responsible here. There must be something wrong in such a state of things. There are cases of assets amounting to \$2000 diminishing from circumstances best known to the lawyers, to \$500. It was very important that some improvement should be carried out. The motion was seconded by Mr. Street, and the return was agreed to.

POLICE RETURNS.

Dr. Tolmie gave notice of motion for full returns in regard to the number of persons apprehended on charge of selling liquor to Indians, the amount of fines collected, etc., etc., for the city of Victoria.

At the suggestion of Mr. DeCosmos Sookle and Cowichan were included in the districts for which returns were asked.

BARRISTERS' BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill. Dr. Tolmie was the mover. The clauses in sec. 2 of the printed bill referring to the admission of attorneys and solicitors from the United Kingdom and the colonies, were passed. Mr. Dennes introduced his amendment providing that applicants seeking admission as barristers or attorneys by whom they had been instructed, verifying the fact that they had been for three years previous to their examination practicing at home, and that they are duly qualified. Dr. Helmecken objected to the portion of the clause preventing the students from following any other occupation or calling. It was a common practice at home among medical students at least, and he supposed among legal students also, to engage in some other pursuit to give them funds to carry on their studies, [hear, hear,] and he did not see why because students here were poor they should be prevented from using the same means of adding to their funds. [Hear, hear.] Mr. DeCosmos agreed cordially with the hon. Speaker, saying such sentiments did honor to both his head and heart. He said that in both the Eastern colonies and the United States students resorted to teaching and such means to assist them in passing through their course of study. Mr. Dennes dissented entirely from the hon. Speaker and Mr. DeCosmos. In England at the number of convictions, he had engaged in any other occupation. Dr. Helmecken—Why? Mr. Dennes—I did not make the laws myself, and really I do not know! [Loud laughter.] Mr. Franklin said it was no doubt very creditable for a man in the lower ranks of life to raise himself to the learned professions, and he had a man in the neighboring colony who had risen from the honorable calling of a shoemaker to be a respectable medical practitioner. He was not, however, prepared to admit that butchers, bakers or tailors, were the proper persons from whom to recruit the ranks of the bar or maintain the dignity of the profession. Dr. Helmecken said the hon. gentleman's remarks would almost make it appear that he (Mr. Franklin) was of Eastern parentage (laughter). He seemed to hold the idea that a man once a butcher should always be a butcher. He (Dr. H.) was astonished to hear such doctrines even in so remote a colony as Vancouver Island [hear, hear]. He himself had always been of the opinion that a man should have the opportunity to rise in life if he had the talent to do so [hear, hear]. He did not object to the term of four years study, but to its being necessarily consecutive. He would call the attention of the hon. gentleman to a poor man who had risen to the position of Lord Chancellor of England, and who felt a pride in taking his son to show him the little barber shop where his father used to shave [hear, hear]. After continuing some length in the above strain, amid the applause of those the hon. gentleman moved in amendment that the words "no other occupation or calling" be struck out. The words were struck out, Messrs. Franklin, Powell and Dennes in the negative, and the amendment passed. The following clause, as a new section, was proposed by Mr. DeCosmos, and after some opposition by Messrs. Franklin and Dennes, was passed: "Each applicant, other than applicants on the ground of instruction, within, or partially within, or partially without the colony, shall within twelve months after he shall have been admitted or enrolled, produce to and deposit with the registrar or acting registrar of the Supreme Court of this colony a certificate signed by two Benchers of his Inn or Society, or by a Judge of the Superior Court of the place where such applicant has been practising as a barrister, advocate, attorney, solicitor or writer to the Signet, last previously to such application being made, or in case of his not having practised, from two duly qualified practitioners of such place as aforesaid, certifying to his good character and conduct; and in case such applicant, as is mentioned in this Section, shall fail to deposit within the time mentioned in this Section, with the registrar or acting registrar aforesaid, such certificate as aforesaid in this Section, he shall not be allowed to practise in any of the courts of this colony."

Mr. Franklin moved in amendment to the original bill that barristers should practice as barristers only, and solicitors and attorneys as such only.

Dr. Tolmie moved the following amendment to the amendment: "Barristers now admitted or who shall hereafter be admitted to the bar of Vancouver Island, shall by virtue of such admission be entitled to practice as attorneys and solicitors as well as barristers in any of the courts of this colony, and all persons now enrolled or who shall be hereafter enrolled as attorneys or solicitors shall be entitled to practice as barristers as well as solicitors and attorneys in the courts of this colony, and the practice of the one profession shall in no case be deemed incompatible with the practice of the others."

Mr. DeCosmos said that from 1858 to 1861 there was no division in the profession, and it had worked well. He fully concurred with the hon. member for the district in regard to the working of the system in the United States, and from long practical experience he himself knew that it had done admirably in all the other North American Colonies [hear, hear]. Mr. Franklin said it was the general wish of the profession here to keep the two branches apart. The barristers here were unqualified by training and practice from acting as solicitors, and it would be doing them an injustice. He had been always taught to look with high respect to the legal profession, and again read the despatch from Mr. DeCosmos which would lower the high tone always maintained by the English bar. He feared that bringing the two branches together would greatly increase litigation. That was the effect in the United States. [Loud cries of no.] Dr. Helmecken said he was not disposed to argue on the question, but he looked on the difference between barristers and solicitors in much the same light as between physicians and druggists (no, no). He thought the proper course would be to amend the bill as it stood, as although the House gave a majority for the amendment, it might have the effect of defeating it elsewhere. Let the House take all they can get at present, and "always ask for more."

Mr. Street cordially supported the hon. member for the district. He did not look at the opinion of any barrister or solicitor, but to the welfare of the colony (hear, hear). To have to go to a barrister and give him a retainer of \$50 to plead some petty cause, was an outrage on the community [hear, hear]. Dr. Helmecken said that although he had been in favor of separating the branches yesterday, he believed that the matter was settled finally, and although there might be a majority in favor of the separation in the House to-day, he would not support the reopening of the matter now. The motion was lost, Mr. Dennes only voting for it.

The remaining clauses of the bill were passed, with some trifling amendments, and the committee rose and reported its passage. The amendments were agreed to by the House.

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The House adjourned at a quarter to five o'clock, to meet on Monday next.

Return of H. M. S. Devastation.

Murderers of Bamfield Secured.

H. M. S. Devastation, Commander Pike, arrived at Esquimalt yesterday afternoon from the west coast, bringing as prisoners three Indians of the Ohai tribe, named Hoth-la-waha, Such-cook, and Klatch-mik, charged with the murder of Mr. Bamfield, Indian Agent at Barclay Sound, also the daughter of Kley-shin, chief of the tribe, retained as a hostage.

On the 19th September the Devastation anchored off New-Kumis, the principal village in Barclay Sound, Mr. Smith, Superintendent of Police, Dr. Gregory, surgeon of the Devastation, and L. B. Lewis, of Chemainus, a colored man, who has been instrumental on previous occasions in catching Indian malefactors in that neighborhood, preceded in Mr. Smith's boat towards the village, which had been deserted.

Passing near Santa Maria Island they were suddenly surrounded by five large canoes, which came out from behind the bluffs and headlands. Each canoe held from ten to fifteen men, who were stark naked, with blackened faces, and shouting their war-whoop. They were followed by five or six other canoes, containing half-a-dozen or more men each. The whole party were armed with muskets, knives, harpoons, and axes. They encircled and threatened the small party of white men, until, as one of them observed, when asked by a comrade what value he put on his life, that it was not worth half a cent's purchase. They were struck at several times with harpoons, and Dr. Gregory's clothes were torn off his shoulders by a spear which was aimed at his head. One of the chiefs, who was wanted for the murder of Bamfield, was very violent, and if it had not been for the persuasions and interference of the other members of the tribe none of the white party would have escaped with their lives. Their differences widened until they quarrelled among themselves. At last they allowed Mr. Smith and Mr. Gregory, to return to the Devastation, on condition that Lewis was left as a hostage with them. There were some of their tribe on board the Devastation and they professed an anxiety to see that they had not been maltreated. Immediately on the return of Messrs. Smith and Gregory the Devastation got up steam and proceeded to the place, when they saw that their friends were safe and that there was no intention to injure any one except the murderers. Kley-shin, the chief, however, had escaped in the confusion, and his daughter was detained and brought to town in the vessel, and will not be given up until her father is captured or killed. The Devastation next crossed over to To-quart and there Mr. DeCosmos had a talk with the natives there, and explained that they were only in pursuit of murderers, and would not harm good and peaceable Indians. The next day they started for Clay-o-qua in pursuit of the murderers of Stevenson and Wilson of the Kingfisher. At the mouth of the Sound as they were going in they met a well known English-Canadian, who came to warn the chief that the Ha boat were up in arms and intended to fight rather than surrender. They threatened to kill every white man who ventured near the shore. They were 195 strong, and as the vessel proceeded they were seen clustered in canoes behind every point, and the heads of others were perceived peeping over the rocks. They were armed with guns and bows and arrows. It was some time before any communication could be opened with them, their attitude was so threatening. The captain was also under strict orders not to fire under any circumstances, and he and his men had to bear quietly the scoffs and jeers of the savages.

EDUCATION.

Dr. Powell introduced his motion for a Committee of Education. He urged the importance of the subject, and briefly alluded to the insertion of the late committee, of which he acknowledged himself a member. There were 240 children in the city alone who required a common school education. He therefore moved for the appointment of a committee.

Dr. Dickson seconded the motion. He himself had been engaged in drafting a bill which he hoped to have laid before the House next or seven days; he would, however, withdraw it out of courtesy to the hon. mover of the motion.

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KOKKEMO COAL.—Mr. F. O'CONNOR, who has resided for 18 months on the north-west coast of the Island, has shown us two specimens of most promising looking coal, brought by him from Kokkemoo, where Messrs. Stewart, Meldrum & Co.'s mine is located.

Mr. O'Connor says that he saw five seams, varying in thickness from 18 inches to 2 feet. The best of the specimens was taken from the surface, the seam being about 3 feet 10 inches in width. The other was obtained about two feet down, from a seam 6 feet 2 inches deep. He adds, that the entire section of country lying between Kokkemoo and Port McNeill is a distance of 16 miles or thereabouts, abounds more or less in this valuable mineral. At Port McNeill, which lies about 12 miles to the southward of Fort Rupert, three or four good seams may be also seen cropping out. The whole of that portion of the island, according to Mr. O'Connor, offers the greatest scope for the employment of capital and enterprise.

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PORT BARRAGE, Sept. 19.—To Post Master San Francisco.—The Overland Mail Service from Atchison is resumed to-day. Send forward your mails.

W. A. CARTER, Special Agent P. O. Department. It is conjectured by those best informed that the reported Indian difficulties were unfounded, the reports being originated by parties carrying the Overland Mail east of Salt Lake who wished to intimidate others from competing for the mail contracts.

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VOLUNTEER RIFLES' MEETING.

The Victoria Volunteer Rifle Club held their first half-yearly meeting at the Lyceum Hall. Capt. Lang of chair, supported by His Worship honorary member, and Lieut. A. Lieut. Pearce and Ensign Elliott vice chairs.

After the half-yearly statement read, a discussion took place of a new uniform for the corps, and in the selection of scarlet, majority. The Corps then sat out cold collation, and prepared for evening. After devoting themselves for a few minutes to the "good" spread before them, the usual toasts of the Queen, the Army, His Excellency the Governor, and drank with much enthusiasm, and other toasts followed as rapid succession.

The "House of Assembly" was a few humorous remarks by Mr. Lang who remarked that he had had that way once himself, but he was convinced that it was anything but good (laughter).

Dr. Powell, M. L. A., surgeon responded.

"Capt. Lang, V. R. C.," was Councillor McDonald, who drew comparison between the present corps and the first volunteers who consisted of ten French Canadian and a few Siwash (H. Band—"The Captain with the toasts was received enthusiastically "for he's a jolly good fellow."

Capt. Lang responded; he Volunteer Rifle Corps would earnest and steady in drill as he words for the corps he had the words for the best of Victoria, had made their mark in the who would throw their hearts into anything they undertook. That is what this corps had done. What associated it with the V. of Great Britain—and he was to connect this corps with the team army of the mother country. It was only eight months ago to this country, and two months ago to this corps; and since then they had made such remarkable progress as to astonish men who were judges of such matters. He had an earnest of better things, and he hoped the corps would stand comrades and brothers, and others' hands (applause).

He hoped that his brother comrades together they had done, and forward the banner of the cause, and that the eyes of all follow-ers. He trusted the corps would him himself if anything he had ever done his best for the corps, that the same true brotherly time to animate them all (cheerful applause).

Capt. Lang concluded an amid great applause.

The "Mayor and Council," Pearce. The gallant officer's jolly face was always seen, and he did not know whether it listed at present or not (laughter). A new incorporation put them in fighting trim (Worship the Mayor responds, known hearty style, and w. Councillor McDonald).

"Our American Neighbour Mayor Harris in a friendly greeting with applause. Band—"Halt, Columbia," Ensign Elliott, in reply. Captain Lang, sang "The Rose" in excellent style; the joining heartily in chorus.

"The Clergy," by Quarters. Recitation from "Will Private Duncombe, well loudly applauded.

"The Honorary Members Dr. Powell, as a class of getting through active soldiers up to the corps. Geo. Cruckshank, Esq., re-

"The Band"—by Capt. of what he called the comba corps; he paid a high commendation of the proficiency of the attributed in a great measure to the earnestness and perseverance, and leadership of the bandmaster Mr. Allen responded.

Capt. Gaylor volunteered English Gentlemen' amid followed by a comic recitation Weynton most humorously, ing prolonged merriment.

Ensign Elliott's health w private Duncombe, and heard "The Ladies"—by Lieut. A. "plentiful society," as the tily remarked.

Ensign Elliott responded. Band—"Love Not." Mr. Huskinson followed w tating which created loud la

"The Press," by Sir J. Wa with the names of Messrs. Mitchell.

Bugler Allen, of the Espr for the Chronicle, and Mr. Colvill responded.

Mr. Homfray gave the sw and was loudly applauded.

After several volunteers the assemblage broke up w air of "Auld Lang Syne," most agreeable and friendly.