The Weekly British Colonist,

Wednesday April 12th 1871.

The State of France.

Seldom in the world's history has a great nation presented a picture so truly lamentable and distressing as France now presents. Nor is the 'situation' less anomalous than it is distressing. Distinguished for martial prowess and renown, France took the lead in all the refinements of civilization. First in learning and in literature, she was preeminent in the arts and sciences. Her ambitious ruler picked a quarrel with a neighbor she was accustomed to hate and despise, with the hope of thereby consolidating his crumbling dynasty. The result is made up of the direst succession of the most startling events the world has ever witnessed. A seven months' campaign placed one half of France in the possession of the Germans, and threw wide open to the triumphant entrance of the conquering army the gates of the proudest and the third largest city in the world. But no sooner has the unwelcome intruder withdrawn from Paris than her own citizens fall to quarrelling among themselves, and the prayer 'Save us from the Germans' has been changed to 'Save us from ourselves,' thus illustrating the words of the royal preacher—'He that ruleth himself is greater than he that taketh a city.' Notwithstanding the alarming proportions the revolutionary movement has evidently attained, there would seem to be little reason to doubt that Thiers' government will ere long assert its authority and successfully beat back the tide of revolt. The material upon which the Commune relies is almost entirely confined to Paris and the large cities, and may be regarded as, for the most part, comprising the sub-stratum of society. The best part of even these dense communities where restless spirits do congregate is undoubtedly opposed to the revolutionary movement, and is on the side of the Thiers' government as the only existing one around which France can rally with reasonable hope. If we leave the cities and go to the rural districts the Commune is nowhere. The French peasant is not a politician. He venerates his priest and desires to see law and order and light taxation prevail. He is not a Republican. With what unutterable horror must he regard a movement which places an infidel foreign adventurer at its head, which revives the guillotine and shouts, Down with the Church, and death to religious bodies! Such a programme must prove its own antidote. Christian Catholic France will recoil with horror and the nation will arise in its terrible might and stamp out this red-republican, infidel revolution. It must be so. A nation cannot die; and France must—must yet be true to herself. The sacrilegious programme stamps the Commune with infamy—indicates the real character of the movement. Whether the Government of Versailles will be enabled to reassert its supremacy without foreign aid remains to be seen. That it would do so in time we cannot doubt. But Bismarck appears to have constituted himself regulator of French time; and if order be not restored by the 10th it is probable that he will be as good as his word and take possession of Paris. Meanwhile the guns at Fort Valerien, still in the hands of the Germans, will greatly help to keep the revolutionists in check. We are told that the Assembly is sitting quietly at Versailles. It is scarcely surprising that the Assembly should linger at Versailles. Looking back, it discovers many political footsteps leading to that exceedingly attractive but most treacherous metropolis, Paris, but few outwards. The outward footprints of that unfortunate monarch, but excellent lock-smith, are scarcely discernable now. When we anticipate the triumph of Thiers' Government, it is not that we discover in it the seeds of permanency. It is rather to be regarded as a temporary expedient by which the nation may be conducted back from a state of anarchy to one of monarchy. We cannot think a Republican form of administration suited to the genius and present habits and condition of the French people. The tendency to centralization, the habits of thought, the influence and system of religion would all appear to point to a Throne. The sooner France can get safely back to her normal political condition the sooner will she find rest and recover from the terrible effects of this most terrible war. And, with a wise and good monarch, there is no reason why she should not soon be herself again.

Thursday April 6.

The Rothschilds are said to have lost from $50,000,000 to $75,000,000 by the result of the Franco-German war. They all believed at first that the French would be victorious, but two weeks after the Germans had crossed the Rhine, they saw their mistake, and made new investments which prevented them from losing thrice as much as they would have done had they not corrected their blunder in good season.

At Ottawa.—The arrival at Ottawa of the Hon Mr Trutch has already been announced. That gentleman met the Privy Council on the 8th and submitted to them the resolutions and address passed by the Legislature of British Columbia as well as other matters pertaining thereto. It is understood that the members of the Privy Council expressed much satisfaction at the form in which the matter presented itself, and announced the determination of the Government to stand by the Terms in their integrity, although conscious that a desperate effort to upset it would be made. On the same day Sir George Cartier announced to the Commons that on a certain day he would move the House into Committee to consider a series of resolutions respecting the admission of British Columbia. The announcement was received with cheers.

Scene in Alaska.—Mr Barker has just completed a painting of an Alaskan scene—a sheet of water with Indian hunters and deer in the foreground and ranges of snow-clad mountains forming the perspective. This piece is one of the best of the series of panoramic paintings which have been produced by Mr Barker's brush. In a few weeks the public will have an opportunity of inspecting this most creditable work by a local artist. Mr Barker has been engaged two years upon this panorama which he has appropriately named 'The Four Great Rivers of the West.'

The Naturalization Treaty.—Referring to the Treaty just concluded between Great Britain and the United States, the California *Alta* remarks: 'Here is a chance for our [illegible] to provide themselves with that royal figure-head which they seem to believe is necessary to happiness in this world. Some of the troubled spirits who were flung into the outer space by our civil war will no doubt avail themselves of this opportunity to become "Bloody Britishers."' The language is somewhat coarse; but then, it is emphatic.

Who is it?—The appointment of Mr Arthur N Birch, some time Colonial Secretary of the former separate Colony of British Columbia, to the governorship of Penang, was gazetted at London on the 25th Feb. A St Thomas dispatch dated March 7th contains the laconic announcement 'Governor Birch is dead.' We cannot very well understand how Mr Birch, appointed to Penang, in the Straits of Malacca, could have been at the West Indies at the above-mentioned date; and yet we search the Colonial Office List in vain for any other Birch, save a District Judge in Ceylon.

Departure of the Grappler.—The steamer Grappler sailed at 7 o'clock last evening for Skeenamouth carrying 45 passengers and a good freight. On the way up and down she will touch at Nanaimo and Metlakatlah and will call at Burrard Inlet before returning to Victoria. Several canoes for the navigation of the Skeena were shipped by the steamer. The passengers were mostly young and hardy looking, just the fellows to open up the country. A large crowd gathered on the wharf to wish the boys God Speed.

Departure of the Enterprise.—The steamer Enterprise, Capt Swanson, sailed at 10.15 o'clock yesterday morning for New Westminster, carrying 150 tons of freight and leaving on the wharf about 150 tons more for which she could find no room. The passengers numbered 96 and included many miners for Omineca. There were also three horses—one of which, an obstinate brute, chose to imagine that, when led to the gangplank he was going to be knocked upon the head; therefore he deemed it incumbent upon him to refuse to walk the plank, and after half an hour passed in coaxing without avail, a rope was tied about his nose, and another passed around his hind legs, by means of which he was ignobly dragged on board.

Sweet William.—The Hon. William Macdougall, C B, is a member of the Canadian House of Commons. The Hon Mr Miller is a member of the Canadian Senate. Although sitting in different Houses they have been talking to each other. To such a length had matters gone that Mr Macdougall publicly declared that he would call attention to the fact that there were strangers in the House, in the event of Mr Miller making his appearance in the gallery. This announcement occasioned considerable interest. Mr Miller did make his appearance in the gallery, and Sweet William saw him, but didn't carry out his threat.

From Scotland.—Elsewhere will be found a letter from the Rev Thomas Somerville so well and favorably known in this community as minister of St Andrew's Church and to whose zealous efforts that beautiful edifice is a fitting monument. We shall be glad, as we are sure our local readers will, to hear frequently from Mr Somerville.

Rush for Seats.—There was a great rush yesterday morning at the Colonial Hotel by persons wishing to secure seats for the concert on Monday next. All the dress-circle and nearly all the parquet seats and orchestra chairs were quickly snapped up. Half-a-dollar is the fee for reserving a seat, and a few choice ones still remain undisposed of. The concert will prove a great pecuniary success.

California Fruit.—California has about three millions and a-half of fruit trees, yielding annually an aggregate of eighty-seven and a-half million pounds. The subject of keeping fruit fresh is receiving serious attention. In addition to the fruit, California has an annual crop of one hundred and fifty million pounds of grapes.

California has 40,534 orange trees, 7,851 lemon trees, 46,655 fig trees, 29,000 olive, 41,815 almond, 12,174 prune, and 89,438 English walnut trees.

Charge of Smuggling.—Thomas Rabson appeared before the Police Court yesterday charged by Robt Hunter with having violated the revenue laws by obtaining dutiable goods from H M ships of the Navy at Esquimalt and bringing them ashore without paying the duties thereon. The consideration of the case was postponed for eight days.

Double Assault.—Charley and Bill, two Hydah Indians, having got into a broil, Charley hitting Bill on the head and Bill hitting Charley on the leg, were both sentenced yesterday by the Stipendiary Magistrate to pay a fine of $10 each or suffer 14 days' imprisonment.

General Sherman will not go to England to stay, and will only remain for a short time and then enter upon his duties as chief engineer of the Northern Pacific Railroad at a salary of $25,000 per annum, which is guaranteed him by Jay Cooke, the banker of the road.

Victoria [illegible].—A letter received in town from Washington, D C, states that [illegible] is playing there with [illegible] Opera [illegible] Co in Leg [illegible] a great favorite as [illegible]

Suspicious Character.—Geo Bryant was brought up from remand yesterday on a charge of being a suspicious character. The prisoner not being able to give a satisfactory account of himself was remanded for one day.

The Jewish Feast of Passover commenced last evening. Appropriate services were held at the Synagogue and the usual festivities were indulged in by Jewish residents.

H. R. H. Prince Alfred sailed from Australia for England on the 11th January. He should reach home about the end of this month.

Terrible.—A Woman in Australia recently cut the throats of her six children and then cut her own. It is to be regretted that she did not begin with her own.

Murder.—An Irishman recently murdered his wife, father and mother, in Australia. He should have finished up by murdering himself.

Nanaimo Politics.—The member for Nanaimo left for that place last evening. It is said he intends giving his electors [illegible] on the Civil List Bill to-morrow evening.

Barnard's Express with treasure arrived at New Westminster last evening and will reach here to-night.

One Hundred Pounder.—Another one hundred pound gold nugget has been found in Australia.

Delayed.—An English mail for the week ending the 11th February has not come to hand.

The *Billet Doux* is the name of a new weekly published in Dublin, and addressed 'to the fair sex all over the world.'

Thanks.—We are indebted to Messrs F Pickett & Co for files of late papers received by the schooner Greyhound.

Letter from Rev. Thomas Somerville.

Kirkintilloch, Scotland.

Editor British Colonist.—I owe you and the people of Victoria, through you, a long letter. Since other fates determine my future in a different line I have all the greater pleasure in recurrence to former scenes. Many

STRANGE SURPRISES

Have I experienced since I left. When I went to the Clifton House at Niagara, I found the name in the book before me was 'T L Wood, British Columbia.' When I left and was stepping on the cars at the station, who should pop out but Delegates Helmcken and Carrall. When I came down to Montreal during the sitting of our Synod, whom should I meet but Mr Seelye, Delegate of the British Colonist. When I arrived and was resting [illegible] a message was delivered one evening by our nearest neighbor 'Mr Barnard of British Columbia is here and will be glad to see you.'

The other day came another message from five young men 'We are going to British Columbia, would you tell us the best road?' A few days ago I went down to see *Mr* Lang in Glasgow, and found the proprietor of the Star Hotel had dined there the night before. It seems as if British Columbia were

ALL AFOOT.

It has numerous representatives here. Mr Shepherd is in Perth. Mr Watson is in Edinburgh. Mr Macfie has changed his calling and entered the iron trade in Birmingham. Mr Carswell is doing an agency business in Glasgow and Manchester. Mr Farquhar is keeping a bookseller's shop in [illegible]. Mr Cowan of Sooke is occasionally [illegible] Rock. [illegible] Cariboo, is doing a thriving house factorage business in Glasgow and myself here in Kirkintilloch, whilst Dr Comrie, late of the Sparrowhawk is studying diseases of the eye and kindred subjects in London.

We have had the

MOST SEVERE WINTER

That has been experienced for thirty years in Scotland. Never did I know how much of our happiness was dependent on climate. Nor was it a long season of frost and snow—but frost and thaw alternately. The roots in the greenhouses were destroyed, the garden plants were severely nipped, and all frail and sick persons decimated. How often have I envied your folks, although I suppose you are still grumbling all round.

The great event just now is the

PRINCESS LOUISE'S MARRIAGE.

In every drawing room you hear 'The Campbells are Coming,' the 'Lorne Quadrilles,' and the 'Princess Louise's Polka,' &c. Two merchants in Glasgow have had a lawsuit about the Lorne Tartan. Matrimony has become a 'matter o money,' with them. They each sent a specimen of their cloth to Lord Lorne, and each received a kindly letter in acknowledgement, so they both advertized the Lorne Tartan, and have quarrelled about privilege of claim. I don't see how they can settle it without

CARRYING LORNE INTO COURT.

The marriage involves the adjustment of many little questions. The son of royalty must have precedence of other Lords, so his rank is to be raised. But then a son must not be greater than his father, and he must be first exalted. But the Argyle family are not rich, so it is supposed Her Majesty will add £10,000 a year from her own purse to that voted by the House of Commons. Thus we are all congratulating ourselves on the success of our chief. The division in the House upon the dowry is regarded as most favorable. Had there been no division we might have supposed some feeling had been hushed, but when there was a division and it was as 1 to 500, it may be taken as a fair representation of the opinion of the country.

The great question now affecting Scotland is the

EDUCATION BILL.

The Parish Schools of Scotland were for a long time the model of other nations. But in recent times, owing the increase of population they have become inadequate. Thus the Parish School may be in some small village at the one end of the Parish, while, owing to coal mines or manufactories, the bulk of the population may be at the other. The system has been supplemented by denominational efforts, by private beneficence and otherwise. But now all these schools are to be systematised. They are to be resumed by Government and redistributed. A chief board is to be in London and local boards throughout the country. The schools are to be undenominational and supported by a rate. The compulsory clause, to use an Irish phrase, is to be voluntary, *i. e.* it is to be left with the local boards whether it shall be applied in that district.

Strange to say smallpox, has become very prevalent here—not only in the large cities but in the country districts. Every one is discussing vaccination and kindred subjects. For some years there has been a very bad cattle plague, and as one farmer put it to me, 'it is passing away from the beasts to the bodies.' I will write you again.

Ever yours sincerely

THOMAS SOMERVILLE.

European Mail Summary.

We understand that the wedding toilette of Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise is to be entirely of British manufacture. Dress of white Irish poplin, manufactured we believe by O'Reilly, *Dunne* & Co. of Dublin; veil and trimmings of Honiton lace.—*Court Circular*. Lord Derby presided at the annual dinner of the *Hospital* for Sick Children, Great Ormond-street. The proposed new building will have accomodation for 200 patients. In the 17 years that have elapsed since the establishment of the hospital, there have been over 7000 in-patients and nearly 170,000 out-patients. Lord Colville of Culross, who for 20 years has acted as the Conservative whip in the Lords has resigned. Lord Skelmersdale, with Lord Hawarden, will carry on the duties of the position. The South London *Press* thus describes the last trick of the beggars:—'The plan is to run alongside gentlemen claiming pity and succor on the ground of having just come out of the small-pox hospital. The trick succeeds; it is dangerous to have one's clothes contaminated by a person rubbing close and refusing to be sent away penniless, and a hastily thrown copper is the quickest talisman for dispatching an unpleasant supplicant.' According to the annual statement of the trustees of the Peabody Donation Fund, the first trust now amounts to £178,733. To this gift Mr Peabody added, by his will, £150,000, but in accordance with the terms of the bequest, this latter sum will not be conveyed to the trustees until the year 1873. A Melbourne paper says the will of Henry Phillpotts, for nearly half a century Bishop of Exeter, has been proved in the Supreme Court of Victoria. The necessity of proving it in that colony arose from the fact that he had about £10,000 invested in property there. The administration was entrusted to the attorney of the English executors. Craycrombe House, a portion of the property which adjoins the hunting seat of the Duke d' Aumale in Worcestershire and which was a short time ago added to that estate that it might become a shooting-box for the Count de Paris, is announced to be let. The Railway *News* is informed that the steamship designed by Mr Bessemer, which will enable passengers to go to sea without suffering the annoyance of seasickness, is far advanced toward completion. The hull and framework are finished and the trial trip will shortly be made. In the House of Lords the Bishop of Winchester's Bill for facilitating the resignation of benefices by incumbents who through illness, age or infirmity are incapacitated from performing the duties of their office, was read a second time. Lord Romilly strongly opposed the measure and moved its rejection; but after some discussion he withdrew his amendment. Mr Frank Noel, who was accused of complicity with the Greek brigands who murdered Mr Herbert, Mr Vyner and Mr Lloyd, has been acquitted by the Court of Appeal at Athens. Mr Colman has been returned for the city of Norwich by a majority considerably larger than that by which Mr Tillett defeated Mr Huddleston in the summer of last year. Mr Colman polled 4,637 votes against 3,389 recorded for Sir Charles Legard, the Conservative candidate. The election for the county of Galway also took place, when Mr Mitchell Henry was returned without opposition. The Leeds papers report the death of a Baptist minister of some celebrity in the north, the Rev Dr Godwin. Dr Godwin was eighty-five years of age.

Dr. Tupper's Speech on the Railway.

Editor British Colonist:—It is difficult to believe that Mr Tupper has been correctly reported in his speech touching the Northern Pacific Railroad—otherwise he has betrayed an ignorance of his subject quite irreconcilable with one's preconceived ideas of sound Canadian statesmanship. Had he been conversant with the published reports of first-class engineers, as well as the concurrent testimony of other qualified and disinterested parties who have repeatedly traversed the contemplated route, he must have known that no portion of it is a desert. Not content with a thorough examination and most flattering reports by trusted agents of the highest scientific character employed by themselves, the Northern Pacific Company, in order to set every doubt at rest in the mind of the public, called into requisition the services of W. Milnor Roberts, United States Civil Engineer, than whom no better authority exists in America. After adverting to the wellknown excellence of the land through Minnesota and Dakotah, comprising nearly one-third the entire distance, Mr Roberts goes on to state 'that the entire range from the Missouri to the Columbia River is a grazing region mostly covered with nutritious grass, upon which immense herds of cattle will be profitably raised. As a rule the soil is excellent, and in many places very rich.' This, in a most exhaustive report, is the only portion I care now to use in contraversion of *Mr* Tupper's statements.

As to the ultimate intention of completing their road, it need only be said that the charter of the company from Congress makes it imperative, in order to enjoy any of its vast rights or franchises, to finish and equip the entire road by the Fourth of July, 1876. To assert, then, that sagacious capitalists would, after investing seven millions of dollars as an earnest of their intentions, forfeit all that they will have already gained, is mere claptrap unworthy of a deliberative body. It never has been the policy of our Northern road to disparage rival routes. There may be room for three great continental roads, as there are of two great nations. Why not invoke mutual assistance rather than jealousies? It ill becomes the champions of a route of which there has been as yet no systematic survey, nor will it promote their enterprise to make statements inconsistent with facts.

That the Northern Pacific Railroad will be in running order at the period required by Congress is as morally certain as that the Dominion itself will exist for that length of time.

AMERICUS.

April 5, 1871.

The Artificial Palate.—Card from Dr Barnard

Editor British Colonist.—To a young and hardly initiated Dentist or Surgeon, I have no doubt the insertion of an artificial palate to cover the bony fissure of a case like Mr. G. Herbert's, may seem like the achievement of some great feat or event; but really it is a very simple thing in itself, requiring little skill on the part of the manufacturer, unless by the addition of a "velum palati" and uvula, he so restores the power of the vocal organs and mouth that what before was sure to escape in an incoherent mass, now assumes some tangible form and can convey to those about him the expression of his wants or the meaning of the sentences he may try to articulate.

I happen to be well posted in the case of Mr. Herbert and was the first Dentist he consulted thereon. Mr. H. appeared to me about a year ago, but as his mouth was not then in a state for taking an impression, he called on me a couple of weeks or months subsequently, at which time I not only took an impression of his mouth but got up a fac-simile of the same in plaster, built his gutta-percha palate with velum palati and uvula attached, which he wore about the city for an hour or two and then returned to tell me that he was so satisfied that his speech and swallowing were improved thereby, that as soon as his brother should arrive from San Francisco he would give me the manufacture of an artificial palate for him. Mr. H's case is not the worst I ever saw or to which I have hitherto taken an impression. As long ago as 1841-2, before Mills Bowden was thought of or saw the light, I took an impression of a similar but worse case, inasmuch as the bones of the upper jaw had no continuity in front of the upper lip under the nostrils but a space of an inch or more there, like an inverted V.

Dentists are not as thick as blackberries in this country and I therefore must fear if many persons were not induced to Dr. Mills Bowden who [illegible] to give entire satisfaction.

I do not believe from any conversation I with Mr Herber that he ever had 5 impressions of his mouth taken by Dentists; unless Dr Mills Bowden took 4 himself, and if he did, I will venture to say that if Mr. H. were put upon his oath as to who got the best and most thorough impression of his mouth, he would say it was Dr Barnard, and that he also was the first man to convince him of the benefit of an artificial palate.

Had Mr H., as he promised, employed me to put him in an artificial palate, neither this Card, nor that of Dr Mills Bowden would ever have found an insertion in the columns of the Victoria Colonist.

C. FRANCIS BARNARD, M.D.

Douglas St., March 6th, 1871.

Mitchell & Johnston,

AGENTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA FOR

REGISTERED SELF-ACTING HAND SEED DRILL.

Received the Special First Prize Silver Medal at the Norfolk Agricultural Society's Meeting at Downham, June 1868.

This will be found to be a very useful Implement, as a greater regularity is obtained than sowing by hand, while a saving of nearly fifty per cent is effected in the sowing of the Seed, and it cannot possibly get out of order. A boy will work it with ease, and it will drill as fast as he can walk. For the Farm it will be found an invaluable Implement. By simply turning a thumb-screw it can at once be adapted for sowing Mangold Wurtzel, Barley, Wheat, Sainfoin, Tares, Rape, Turnips, Onions, Radishes, Flax, Carrot, Cabbage, Cauliflower, and Broccoli Seeds. Full directions are sent with each. Price $5 each.

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NEW FRENCH COLD GRAFTING WAX

Mastic L'Homme-Lefort, in tins from 25 cents and upwards. mh3

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Suitable for Miners, or any other man!

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Estate of Chas. Evans, deceased.

ALL CREDITORS ARE REQUESTED to send in their claims to Mr Barnard, Yale, and all debtors to pay the amounts due by them to him.

JANE EVANS, Executrix.

March 31 1871. ap1 1m&w

A. CARD.

HAVING LEARNED THAT CERTAIN interested parties are spreading the report that Barnard's Express and Stage Line will not continue to be run regularly to Cariboo as heretofore, I beg to state that not only will that business be continued in all its past efficiency, but that arrangements are nearly matured for greatly reducing the rate of charges and increasing the efficiency of the service, as soon as the Spring opens.

mh18 d&w F. J. BARNARD.

OMINECA EXPRESS.

THE UNDERSIGNED WILL RUN AN EXPRESS MONTHLY

Between the Forks of Skeena River and Germansen Creek,

Calling at the several Mining Camps in the Omineca District. Express matter will be forwarded with dispatch and at

MODERATE RATES.

The first Express will leave the Forks about the middle of April.

mh23 P. REID.