

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, November 6, 1866.

A New Pacific Railroad.

The State of Sonora, which with its eastern neighbor, Chihuahua, which the telegraph tells us is about to be absorbed by the American Republic, is one of the richest mineral districts of the Empire. Gold, silver, mercury, copper, iron, etc., are known to abound there, but owing to the continual state of anarchy into which the unhappy country has been plunged from time immemorial, and the raids of Indians, its mineral resources have been but little developed. Under Spanish rule, several rich silver leads were opened; but after the Spanish yoke had been thrown off, the country fell into the hands of two factions—the Gandara and Pesquera—and the Apache tribe of Indians, taking advantage of the confusion which resulted from the internecine quarrel—swept the interior of the State as with a fiery besom—scattering destruction on all sides and either murdering the inhabitants or carrying them off into a state of hopeless slavery. For this reason, the mines were abandoned and nearly the whole of the interior given up to the Indians. Guaymas is the main port of Sonora; it contains about 3500 inhabitants, and is situated on the Gulf of California. Hermosillo is the chief city. It is distant 90 miles Guaymas in the interior, and has 40,000 inhabitants. The houses are built of adobes (sun-dried bricks) and stone. Ures, the capital of Sonora, has a population of 6,000. The country is traversed by the Cordilleras Mountains, but there are many open plains, the soil of which is generally arid, and is but little cultivated except in the vicinity of the towns, where there are some beautiful gardens. The entire population of Sonora is 139,374, and its area is 100,228 miles. With Chihuahua in the possession of the United States, no obstacle exists to the immediate construction of a line of railroad from New Orleans to Guaymas, a distance of only 1000 miles. Such a line would command the entire Pacific Coast trade. It would be the high road to Australia, Japan and China, and would command the traffic of the world with those countries: As the land travel would be only a matter of a day and a half, its superiority over that via San Francisco to the East, is apparent at a glance. Should the grant of the States of Sonora and Chihuahua to the United States be consummated, a fine country would be thrown open to civilization, and an artery established through which would flow the wealth of the Orient in exchange for the products of the Occident.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Saturday, Nov. 3. Intercolonial Cricket Match. The Return Cricket Match between eleven of New Westminster and eleven of Victoria, came off yesterday on the Beacon Hill ground and resulted, as the score will show, in a signal victory for the Victoria players. The day was magnificent and the ground in very fair order. A considerable number of spectators watched the game during the day and evinced considerable interest in the proceedings. The wickets were pitched at 10 o'clock, and the Victorians took the bats sending in Wallace and Barnett, who made good play, the former being bowled by Kingscote for six, and the latter run out for 13 runs. Brown contributed three when, Pooley sent a rattler into his lumber yard; Powell after a lively innings, added 10 more when he was caught by Howse, and Howard was caught by Pooley for 8; Tye and Richardson who followed, exhibited some fine batting and kept the ball in motion for some time, when the former was caught by Good for 29 and the latter was run out with 28. The remaining four did not help the score much. The total of Victoria's first innings was 133. The fielding of the New Westminster players was rather loose and the bowling very indifferent, no less than 25 wides being scored to the Victorians. It was 1 p. m., when Messrs Bullock and Good took their stand at the wickets for New Westminster, but they soon retired with only four runs between them, and the chances of success seemed to grow fainter as one after another of their crack players were disposed of without making a score, the whole eleven only making 17 runs out of which Howlett contributed 8. The Victoria Eleven

en fielded capitally, no byes, and only one leg bye and one wide being called. With such heavy odds in their favor, it was only right that the Victorians should allow the New Westminster Eleven to go in again, accordingly Howlett and Andrew were sent to the stand, and the former, after the most scientific display of the day, retired for 27. Andrew and Layton only added three, and the Rev. Sheepstanks, who is acknowledged to be one of the crack players, after running up a score of 15 in fine style, was run out. The New Westminster players, too eager to force the running, did not make sufficient allowance for the good fielding of their opponents and the consequence was that four of them were run out in succession. The total score of the New Westminster Eleven in their second innings, was 64, which, added to the 17 made in their first innings, gave a grand total of 81 against 133 made by Victoria in one innings. The latter have some reason to be proud of their victory, inasmuch as the New Westminster team was considered the strongest that has yet, been brought into the field, although, judging from the play yesterday, it should give it as our opinion that the Victorians were never better represented on any former occasion. Richardson and Howard bowled well throughout, and the fielding generally was a pleasure to witness, more especially that of Brown, Wallace and Barnett. The following is the score:

Table with columns for VICTORIA and NEW WESTMINSTER, listing players and their scores.

THE CIVIC ELECTION.—Mayor Franklin is still urged to stand for re-election. His friends say, with truth, that he has been courteous and obliging towards all, whether rich or poor; that, so far as his limited powers have allowed, he has discharged his duty without fear or favor—and now that the time is coming when the Council will have more power granted to it, and when it will, in fact, be the only local representative government we can boast of, then it is our plain duty to re-elect him again to the position he has so creditably filled. We agree with the friends of Mr Franklin; no better man for the office can be found. He has proved true to the pledges given before election, and his course has been so impartial and honorable as the chief civic officer, that the gentlemen who have served under him as councillors—although differing with him in politics—have unanimously tendered their hearty support in case he should consent to stand again.

A MOST DANGEROUS PRACTICE.—Two ladies, sitting in a room in a dwelling at the south end of James Bay Bridge, on Thursday afternoon, narrowly escaped, being shot by some fellow who fired from the other side of the bay at a duck or gull. A bullet struck a pane of glass and shattered it to pieces—some of the fragments striking one of the ladies in the face. The bullet was picked up on the floor of the room yesterday morning. Why cannot the unlawful practice of discharging fire-arms within the city limits be visited with punishment? The lives of residents and passers-by in the vicinity are placed in daily jeopardy by its continuance; and the severe punishment of one or two of the offenders, would deter others from following their example.

Mechanics' Institute.—On Tuesday evening next, at 7 o'clock, the annual meeting of the Institute will be held, when the annual report will be read, and an election for officers held. After the business of the evening has been concluded, a table will be spread, at which the members of the Institute and a few friends will sit down. We learn that Sir James Douglas, taking into consideration the dullness of the times and the worthy character of the institution, has voluntarily reduced the rent of the spacious hall from \$55 to \$25 per month.

FALSE REPORT.—Considerable excitement was created yesterday by the promulgation of a report that H. M. S. Olio was on her way in with Governor Seymour on board. All sorts of ridiculous stories were circulated during the forenoon, and generally believed; but by noon it was ascertained that the whole thing was a hoax, and the town returned to its usual state of quietude.

SHIPPING.—The Egmont and the Glaramara will be the next English vessels to arrive here. The former has for a cargo, 500 miles of the Behring's Straits cable; and the last-named had not left Europe at latest advices. The brig W. D. Rice is due here, and the ships Deleware, Nicholas Bidle and Revere at Nanaimo, from San Francisco.

A GAMBLING CASE.—David Fee and Michael McGee—the former keeper of the Phoenix Saloon, and the latter a private watchman—are charged with having conspired to cheat and defraud Miles Sheridan. Mr Bishop appeared for the prosecution: Owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr Ring, who had been retained for the defence, the case was ordered to lie over for one day.

LIBERALITY.—The Volunteers of both capitals are under many obligations to the owners of the steamer Enterprise for their liberality in conveying the Riflemen engaged in matches to and fro, free of charge. At the dinner in the Drill Hall on Thursday evening, the health of the Hudson Bay Company was proposed in complimentary terms, and suitably acknowledged by Serge Tait and Thorne.

DEBATING CLASS.—Messrs. Fell, Bull, Cochran and Gray have been nominated for President of the Debating Class, and Messrs. Babbitt, Fell, Bull and Gray for Vice-President. Mr Finlayson was unanimously chosen Secretary. The election takes place next Thursday.

GOOD SHOOTING.—Private Newbury yesterday, at the butts, firing with some friends the same number of shots at the same distances as on the day previous, made 65 points. The highest score made in the match was 59, which was considered pretty "tall" shooting.

THE RIFLE MATCH.—It was the Adjutant it appears, and not the scorer, who yielded the question raised about a centre hit which would have made the match a tie; We feel some delicacy in alluding to the circumstance at all, as it was hardly right to bring up a question that had once been determined.

THE MUNICIPAL BYE-LAW.—We learn that there is no intention of levying the rates laid down in the Municipal Bye-Law until the new Colonial Government shall have been placed in working order. This is a sensible resolve on the part of the Corporation.

"ANOTHER SHAREHOLDER."—We see nothing but harm to result to a large number of fellow citizens, who have invested their means in the enterprise, by the insertion of your communication, and we must therefore decline to publish it.

DELUGE ENGINE COMPANY.—At the monthly meeting of this company, held on Thursday evening, Geo. Norris was elected 2nd Assistant Foreman vice James Muirhead, resigned. Mr Couvres was elected Secretary vice Geo. Norris.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.—A telegram announces that an attempt was last week made on the life of the Emperor of Austria, while leaving the theatre in Prague. The assassin's arm was arrested by an Englishman.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BENEFIT.—The gross receipts from the late amateur performance at the theatre were \$550; and the net proceeds, \$350—a most satisfactory exhibit.

STAR CLUB.—A meeting of this flourishing organization will be held on Tuesday evening next, at 7 1/2 o'clock, for the election of officers.

One Walker, for selling a bottle of grog to a Siwash, was sent to prison for four months.

THE BLANKET THEFT.—Charley, for stealing blankets, was sent to the chain-gang for three months.

THE FURNITURE of the St. George Hotel will be sold by auction to-day.—J. P. Davies & Co. Auctioneers.

MARSH'S BENEFIT is fixed for Wednesday evening next. See advertisement.

The Enterprise will leave for Fraser River this morning at 6 o'clock.

RATS ON THE TRAMP.—GREAT SLAUGHTER OF VERMIN.—The rats are swarming the country west and northwest of this. They seem to be emigrating southward, and the weather-seers predict that there will be a very severe winter. In many places the rats have destroyed the corn, sweet potatoes and tomatoes, and they get into the orchards, and climbing the trees, they have destroyed much fruit. The great rat army reached New Castle, in Clarke county, the other day, and forthwith their scouts took possession of everything eatable. A man in the place whose stable had given out determined to have it replaced with a new one. On examining into the matter it was ascertained that the space under the floor was literally packed full of rats. The owner immediately circulated the word, and all the idle men and dogs in the village were collected together and the place was soon surrounded. The workmen then proceeded to remove the floor, when the men pitched in and began the work of slaughter. And they did not cease until they had slain 1,505 rats. And the space in which these vermin were gathered was only 20 by 24 feet and one foot and a half deep. The statement is made to us by truthful men who witnessed the slaughter, and it may be taken for truth, extravagant as it may seem.—Dayton (Ohio) Journal, Sept. 14th.

THE POORMAN SILVER LEAD.—The editor Owyhee Avalanche has lately inspected the Poorman's Silver Lead and thus writes his impressions: "We went into the bowels of the earth—whole bowels are found to be rather small in places—owing, perhaps, to their being possessed by a 'Poorman.' Mr P. lighted the way to every nook and corner of the works—a treat to be remembered. The wealth of the mine are everywhere visible—above, below and the entire length as worked. The vein matter as it appears in the mine resembles a plum pudding—plums representing the solid black sulphurets and ruby silver from the size of a walnut up to 20 and 50 pounds weight. Sunday last the workmen had in tow a piece of ruby silver and sulphurets that if gotten out whole would weigh over five hundred pounds. Through the carelessness of some of the miners, it was cracked in two before leaving its bed. We held a candle to it on one side, where the space between the ore and casings permitted a view of about one foot square and the surface indicated was solid, sparkling ruby silver. This piece looked to be about four feet long by two wide and one in thickness. The accident to it is greatly to be regretted. After tramping on the outside and crawling the inside of War Eagle for three straight hours, the sight of the New Jerusalem streets paved with gold would become nauseating and recall the uses of victuals."

OVER THE FALLS.—Niagara Falls, September 12.—This afternoon, while a terrible wind was blowing up the gulf, two men were discovered in a small boat in the rapids south of the Three Sisters. They were struggling desperately with the waves, but human power was utterly unavailing. Hundreds were on Goat Island and saw them, but of course were unable to render them any assistance. The terror-stricken men rowed with frantic efforts to the very verge of the precipice, and finally went over, still clinging to the oars. It seems that Mr Cooper, the Postmaster at the town of Chippewa, on the Canadian side, two miles above the falls, started with Frank Leutz, the ferryman, to cross the river in a small boat. Usually the course is to pull about two miles up the river before attempting to cross, but on this occasion the unfortunate men seemed to have imagined that the heavy wind blowing up stream would counteract the force of the current, and consequently attempted to cross in a direct line. The result was the same as it has been on three former occasions, when similar attempts have been made, and their lives paid the forfeit of the mistake.—Cor. Buffalo Express.

THE CONDITION OF THE JOINT-STOCK BANKS. (London Morning Advertiser.) The country is slowly drawing ahead out of the financial difficulties in which it has been so long involved. The rate of interest is gradually falling, the Funds are going up, and good investments are rapidly rising in value. Confidence in the establishments and companies which have endured the dangers of the crisis without flinching has been restored in many instances, and in some has probably become more assured than ever. It is a period when, if ever, maxims of caution and principles of security can be safely inculcated, and as a new period, more or less extended, of financial ease is before the country, it becomes expedient to arrange some plan to avoid, if possible, the causes which have hitherto led to wide-spread ruin and loss. There are signs about the last crisis which must lead us to regard it as more severe, and our escape from it as less hopeful, than in former instances, and the commerce and trade of no country could endure a succession of quickly recurring shocks such as we have passed through during this year.

One feature of recent financial failures or difficulties seems to be the absence in so many enterprises of a sufficient reserve with which the demands of creditors can be met. Of course, a company which is not doing well has no right to maintain a large reserve, as it would thus only render its existence more costly, and sink more of the money of its unfortunate shareholders. The maintenance of a considerable reserve is certainly expensive. Every million of Bank of England notes or of bullion kept as a reserve involves a loss when the rate of interest is ten per cent, of one hundred thousand pounds per annum. There is, therefore, a great temptation to bank directors and managers of other joint stock companies to lessen their unproductive reserve as much as possible. When they use Consols and Exchequer Bills as a reserve fund, there is of course not quite so great a loss; but with present rates of interest there is certainly no profit and if they are sold at the lowest point they are expensive. Besides, such securities are not money, nor immediately convertible into it, especially for provincial banks. Their sale in a crisis causes more depression and uneasiness, although undoubtedly the cessation of the custom of holding them as a reserve would have considerable effect upon their market price. It would, however, evidently be very desirable, for the prevention of bank panics, that each establishment should hold a considerable cash reserve, not only in difficult times, but as a general rule. At present, when the money-market is easy, and the rate paid for it low, the great deposit banks hardly hold any cash reserve, and consequently the number of notes held by them and the public falls low, as also does the Bank of England bullion. When a pressure commences every bank seeks to strengthen itself, and there is a struggle for cash, which is retained in the greatest quantity at a period when it is most expensive. The arrangement thus, perhaps, forced upon the banks by competition with each other would not pay if panics became more frequent or less quickly over. Even as it is it possesses pecuniary disadvantages for these institutions which use it, and it greatly intensifies the crisis to the rest of the community.

Under the present system, the English joint-stock banks, when they do maintain a large currency reserve, hold only bank-notes; and as their doing so obliges the Bank of England to hold a corresponding amount of gold, the practice, if generally followed, would render a panic less likely, but might slightly curtail joint-stock bank dividends in quick times. Another result of the partial and irregular maintenance of a currency reserve by ordinary banks is that those which are fairly are almost equally inconvenienced

by a crisis as with others which trade with all the capital deposited with them, and which aid in bringing on the difficulty. The absence of monthly returns by the banks of their condition makes it possible and even profitable for some of them to cast the burden upon their neighbours. The danger of panics will be greatly lessened when the community learn to invest their savings for themselves, instead of placing them in the hands of bankers. At the same time, if we have great banks of deposit, they ought to be compelled to hold a considerable amount of cash; and not add to the panic, when it comes, by seeking their supply at a period of difficulty.

Varieties. Why are bankrupts more to be pitied than idiots? Because bankrupts are broken, while idiots are only cracked.

The Queen of Naples sold pearls valued at 30,000 crowns to the Princess Sciarra, for 18,000, preparatory to emigrating to America. The earth is a tender and kind mother to the husbandman; and yet at one season he always harrows her bosom, and at another plucks her ears.

"Can you tell me how old the 'devil' is?" asked an irreverent fellow of a clergyman. "My friend, you must keep your own family record," was the reply.

A young woman drowned herself near London through fear of being dismissed from a situation for staying out a few minutes later than the time she ought to have returned.

Mgr. Ranza, a diocesan bishop of Italy, has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment and a fine for refusing communion, in extreme and Christian burial to a delinquent friar. Heenan and Morrissey have become mutual friends. Another item relating to fistiology is that Joe Coburn and Heenan are like to meet in the prize-ring at no distant day for a large stake.

"Dear me, how fluidly he talks!" said Mrs Partington, recently at a temperance meeting. "I am always rejoiced when he mounts the nostril, for his eloquence warms in every cartridge of his body."

The following costly notice of birth appears in the London Times: On the 11th inst., at New York, the wife of Alexander Barret, Esq., of No. 96 Lancaster-gate, London, of a son. (Par Atlantic Telegraph.)

A battle is a row with no police to stop it; and it is, besides, a row from which, even in the most heroic conflicts, a great many of the combatants run away. Large waterfalls continue fashionable at Niagara. The days on which fish should be caten-fry days. "Come buy! come buy!" said a flower-girl to the crowd in Broadway; and they went by.

A Washington clergyman says that since the issue of three cent currency notes the revenue of his Church has decreased nearly one half.

There has been found appreciable quantities of both copper and lead in human flesh, the intestines of beasts, in beef, in poultry, hen's eggs, in fish, crustaceans; insects, spiders, and snails.

To the famous Dr Abernethy is accredited the remark that there are three classes of sick persons, viz those who think they are sick; those whose friends think they are sick; those who really are sick—and that the latter generally die. The "laying on of hands" does not seem to reach those cases.

The Island of Campobello, the spot where Fenian squadrons were first "set in the field" during the late attempt to capture British North America, has been sold to a Mr Seymour, of New York, for \$80,000. Mr Seymour has been investigating the mineral resources of the island for several years. The sale includes the whole island except about eighty acres.

A plain spoken Western preacher lately delivered the following from the desk: "I would announce to the congregation that probably, by mistake there was left at the meeting house a small cotton umbrella, much damaged by time and tear, and of an exceedingly pale blue color, in the place whereof was taken a very large black umbrella and of great beauty. Blunders of that sort, brethren and sisters, are getting a little too common."

Among the novel inventions of the day is one by a Down-Easter, who has patented a lady's garter, consisting of a soft flexible band, which is to be clasped around a lady's leg next to the skin, over which the stocking is to be drawn, and the usual elastic garter placed so as to encircle the stocking directly over the band, and thus all uneasiness occasioned by the elastic binding the limb too tightly is obviated; besides this, the stocking is held up more securely and neatly.

An orator, referring to the "bone and sinew," said: "My friends, I am proud to see around me to-night the hardy yeomanry of the land, for I love the agricultural interest of the country; and well may I love them, fellow citizens, for I was born a farmer; the happiest days of my youth were spent in the peaceful vocations of a son of the soil. If I may be allowed to use a figurative expression, my friends, I may say I was born between two rows of corn." "A pumpkin, by thunder!" exclaimed an inebriated chap, just in front of stage.

A Memphis lawyer relates, if we may rely upon the statement of the Memphis Bulletin, that while in Carroll County lately, he had attended the preliminary trial of a man before a country magistrate, charged with stealing corn from a neighbor's crib. The evidence went to show that the defendant had been round with his hand in an aperture of the crib, safely fastened in a steel trap, which the owner of the crib had set for the purpose of catching the thief who had been preying upon his grain. It was also in evidence that two empty corn sacks were found lying at the foot of the entrapped individual. The decision of the magistrate was that there was no proof that the prisoner had stolen any corn, and as to being caught in a steel trap, any gentleman had a perfect right to stick his hand in one if he felt inclined to do so.

From Lillooet. LILLOOET, Oct. 24, 1866. In my letter on the 1st I was made to say the genuine city of Lillooet being side, evidently a misreading "Fritz," and then you really worth the knowledge flour is ruling here: extra 100 lbs., far cheaper than; all of this season's produce hundred thousand pounds amount will be probably by Christmas. It may not be that the quantity of flour two mills in this town, and that, on the Fraser, in this a very little help from the be sufficient to support the the upper country until wheat This works quite a change matters. All from the steam-wharfanger, will "slip up" the Government tolls thousand dollars less on what is termed the Lillooet two main staples of the fare—flour and beans; of five all have found a ready we can commiserate with getting "steambated" there is the satisfaction of value of six to seven hundreds of breadstuff held by have hitherto been obliged a larger sum yearly for a of the United Colonies may be up to the fact of the sub-section. While commensured "caving" all over the mers have been gradually consolidated affluence. We try thousand dollars in variety, and on some ranches as thousand dollars have been yeants. Add to these the yearly increase on live do not come to the centre the making in embryo of and your humble servant

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