

Tuesday, October 23, 1866.

Quartz v. Placer Mining.

On several recent occasions we have endeavored to draw public attention to the importance of initiative steps being taken towards unfolding the latent wealth of our quartz veins. No experienced miner doubts the existence of extensive and valuable auriferous deposits in various parts of British Columbia, which are only awaiting the researches of the prospector, and before the lapse of many seasons, the unrivalled claim of William Creek to be designated the richest mining camp in the country, may, and no doubt will be, entirely eclipsed by greater discoveries elsewhere; but experience has taught us a severe lesson, and we can no longer afford to hang our fortunes on a broken reed. Until placer mining becomes a supplemental and not the main source of our mining wealth, we shall be subject to a recurrence of such relapses and disastrous ordeals as that from which we are now emerging. With agricultural and industrial resources still in their infancy, and trade narrowed down almost to a question of local demand and supply, it is clear that the actual sustaining power of the United Colonies lies in the yield of our gold mines. As a means of wealth, it has proved a sad and dangerous illusion. The wholesale exodus that has taken place, and the present condition of forty-nine out of fifty of those who were allured to this country by the reported discovery of the precious metal in fabulous quantities, furnish living testimony of the utter inefficacy of the mines of Cariboo, rich though they unquestionably are, to sustain even a population of a few thousand. At the best of times, on William Creek the claim that was paying large dividends was the exception, not the rule, and in most instances the gold taken out was sent out of the country as fast as it was taken out of the ground. It was in fact on imported capital and not on legitimate productive wealth, that the country was subsisting. So long as large sums of money continued to be expended in prospecting claims, labor was required, and money was kept in circulation. While immigrants with money continued to arrive by hundreds, shiploads of goods poured in, and trade flourished; but the day of reckoning came and the delusive gloss had to be rubbed off. The population of the mines in the course of time was reduced to the number that could find remunerative employment in them, while traders who had rushed goods through at great expense, found their stocks too large, and heavy losses were sustained in consequence. Meanwhile William Creek, though it maintained its high reputation, was found to be no place for a poor man; the large sums taken out only benefited a few, and the great expense of working the mines beggared more than were enriched. The Bed Rock Drain, when completed, would, it was thought, be the salvation of the creek, and many good claims were laid over last summer anticipating through its aid, a rich harvest this season. This made things very dull last year, and all hopes were then centered upon the result of the next mining campaign. The early part of this season certainly gave every promise of those hopes being realized to the fullest extent, the claims were all taking out more or less pay, gold was more generally distributed than it had ever been before, and scarce an idle man was to be seen upon the creek; but alas! for the mutability of human affairs, the weather became too dry and fine for mining purposes, water gave out and caused a suspension of operations that lasted throughout the best part of the season, producing much distress, and extending its baneful effects all over the country. We say nothing of the failure of the Big Bend and Bridge River diggings, because public confidence in them was based upon too slender foundations. But, whatever may be the causes of our decline, it is clear

that the time is arriving when the prosperity of the country must rest upon something more solid and real than the precarious yield of our placer mines; the development of our numerous quartz ledges is one of the most practicable means within reach of attaining that end. On Canyon and Cedar Creeks, in Big Bend, Kootenay, and elsewhere, quartz, apparently of the richest kind, has been recently found, and in some cases specimens have been sent down for assay. These discoveries have awakened a keen interest among the miners themselves, who are anxious that their value should be tested. In noticing an article on this subject that appeared in our columns, the Cariboo Sentinel says: "That the whole of this mining community are quite alive to the benefits that would result from the development of our quartz ledges was lately shown by the anxiety expressed for having a test quartz mill erected. Unaided individual enterprise at this critical moment is inadequate for the undertaking, though the spirit is willing the purse is weak. While the Administrator of the Government was here the subject was urged on his attention, and although he approved of the project and promised material aid to carry it through, still no action has yet been taken in the matter, notwithstanding that a very liberal offer has been made to the Government by an enterprising firm here who already possess a steam motive power of sufficient capacity to work a mill capable of crushing at least five tons of rock a day. How long will official procrastination prevail?" What Mr Birch's reasons may be for not moving in this important matter as promised we cannot pretend to say, but the subject is one that should engage the earliest attention of the Government. The country is crying aloud for some fresh impetus to rescue it from prostration, and if the Government remains inert, it will be the duty of the legislature directly it meets to take the matter in hand, and devise means for thoroughly testing this source of wealth.

Distraint for Taxes.

Many property-holders having failed to pay the amounts due by them for taxes to the Government, the Sheriff gives notice that he will proceed to levy by distress upon the personal property of delinquents on Monday next. Among the delinquents there are some who, following the lawless advice of the Booby of the Telegraph, though well able, refuse to pay. But a majority of those who have not met the Government demands are absolutely unable to do so; and should Government not recede from its determination, numerous cases of hardship will occur. We should be only too glad to see those who refuse compelled to pay. But the small holder, if pressed, must abandon his property and leave the country. In times like these, Government should do all in its power to lighten the burthens of the inhabitants. It should consider the heavy losses to which they are daily subjected, the lack of work, and the tightness of money; and in case it is decided to proceed with the sale, discrimination should be used by the Sheriff in levying upon the goods of delinquents. The man who can show that he is unable to meet the demand should be allowed further time; and the screw should be applied only to those who can but will not pay.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday, Oct 19. MECHANICS' INSTITUTE. - The Librarian has handed us the following list of books presented to the Library of the Institute by His Excellency the Governor: Natural Philosophy, 4 vols; Cochlin's Results of Slavery; Lettres de Madame de Leveque; Milton's Poetical Works, 2 vols; Theatre de Pigault Lebrun; Devereux, 5 vols; Theory of Italian Verse; Progressive Geography; Martin's British Colonies; Hittell's Resources of California; Capper's Port and Trade of London; the Testimony of the Rocks; the Catechist; Commentary on Solomon's Song; Parliamentary Companion; Catalogue of the Melbourne Public Library; Short Hand Whist; Blue Books on Convict Discipline; the Cattle Plague; Western Africa, &c; Bancroft's Handbook Almanac for Pacific States; Mercantile Navy and Hart's Army Lists for 1864.

A PATENT THRESHING MACHINE was landed on Ledeveu's wharf yesterday. The machine is from San Juan Island, and is owned by Hon. Hill Harman, of that locality, who has brought it over for the purpose of thrashing 5000 bushels of wheat on the farm of Mr Brown, at Saanich. The machine is capable of thrashing 800 bushels per day, although the average work performed is 500 bushels. It has been in use two seasons on San Juan Island, and has there thrashed 38,000 bushels of grain for the farmers. Ten horses and nine men are required to run the machine, and it performs in one week work that would require that amount of help months to accomplish. In California, where the grain is dry and the straw short, the machine would turn out 1000 bushels of grain per day. The machine is a wonder, and we hail its appearance as an evidence of the progress our agriculturalists are making.

THE BALL. - If the exertions of the Committee meet with their full measure of reward, the parting demonstration to Governor Kennedy and family to-night, in the House of Assembly, will be the most successful affair of the kind that has ever taken place on the Island. The only apprehension felt is that the room is not sufficiently capacious to accommodate with comfort the number of citizens and invited guests who will be present, and that dancing may in consequence be somewhat impeded; however, when all go with a determination to render themselves as agreeable as possible to everybody, the little faux pas and rencontres resulting from an overcrowded room are always forgiven. There are twenty-two dances on the programme, and the Suttle's band will play the first quadrille at 8 o'clock. Carriages may cross the James Bay bridge on this occasion.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS AT NEW WESTMINSTER. - An association has been formed at New Westminster to beguile the weary evenings of winter, styled the New Westminster Dramatic Club. Amongst its members are some of the Royal Engineer Company, who formerly conducted the Camp Theatre. A stage is being fitted up and a performance for the benefit of the Club will take place this evening, when the Orphans Glee Club will assist. The pieces to be represented are: "His last Legs" and "Make your Wills." The following are the officers: A. R. Howse, Manager; Wm Fisher, Hon Secretary and Treasurer; L Bonson, Machinist; T Hughes, Property Master; J C Pratt and J Syme, Artists; John Graham, Prompter.

CEAL'S RESTAURANT. - This well known establishment has been refitted in the most elegant style, and will be thrown open to the public to-morrow evening at 5 o'clock. At the invitation of the proprietor we inspected the premises yesterday, and can safely pronounce them the most complete in the city. The upstairs and downstairs dining rooms are fitted up with every possible consideration for the comfort and convenience of the patrons of the establishment, while the culinary arrangements and bakery are the most compact and perfect of the kind we have ever seen. With such facilities at his command, Ceal cannot fail to draw a large share of public patronage. The following are the tradesmen who have been engaged in renovating the Restaurant: Painting and graining - Mr J. Banks and Mr Eli Harrison; plumbers and gas fitters - Messrs A. & W. Wilson; paper hanger - Messrs Steimmler & Co; carpenter - Mr Storey.

INSULT. - An insolent drayman, on Wednesday, stopped his cart on the narrow part of the second bridge leading to Esquamalt, and refused either to drive or back out for His Excellency the Governor and family, who were in their wagonette. He used most insulting and disgusting language in the presence of the ladies, and, after playing a ruffian's part for some time, backed his vehicle out, and suffered the carriage to pass. A warrant was issued for the fellow yesterday, but he had gone into close quarters, and could not be found.

ACCIDENT. - A man, while driving a horse and cart along the Saanich road, yesterday, collided with another vehicle, and was thrown out with such violence as to remain insensible for a long time. The police were sent to the spot and brought the man with his horse and cart to town, where, after receiving proper medical attention, he recovered and was enabled to ride home.

CLOSE SHAVE. - A party of gentlemen, while bathing near Ogden Point, on Sunday last, were startled on hearing the report of a rifle close at hand, and, an instant afterwards, a bullet whistled in very close proximity to the head of one of the bathers. The rifle was fired at an owl by another gentleman. Marksmen should be careful lest, in firing at an owl, they cause a howl by a human being.

A PROWLING CHINAMAN was caught at the residence of Hon. Henry Rhodes, yesterday afternoon, while examining the fastenings. He had been noticed on several occasions recently, hanging about the premises, and on each occasion was warned off, "John," who is a suspicious looking fellow, was conducted to the Police Barracks.

PANDORA STREET CHURCH. - We are requested to correct our statement of Wednesday morning, that the Rev. Mr Sloan, of Stellacoom, W. T., had been invited to preach in the First Presbyterian Church, Pandora street. No such invitation has been extended, either by the managers or any person connected with the church.

NEW WESTMINSTER RIFLE MATCH. - The following are the names of the Volunteers who will proceed on Tuesday next to contest the rifle match with the New Westminster men on Wednesday: Allsop, Roscoe, Newbury, Vinter, Kennedy, Engelhardt, Woollacott, Homfray, Soar and Bowden.

POLITICAL. - Dr Helmsken, late Speaker of the late Legislative Assembly of this Island, is strongly urged to stand for the B. C. Legislative Council. The doctor would be returned by a large majority over all competitors.

KOOTENAY. - Several miners from this gold field confirm favorable reports previously received here, and express great confidence in the diggings. The Chinamen continue to buy out the white miners, paying high prices for the claims.

AGAIN REMANDED. - Williams, the hero (?) of the Saanich rape, has been again remanded - Mrs Fredsdon being still in a critical condition. The poor woman's skull is supposed to have been fractured by a blow with the hatchet.

SALE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. - The attendance was very large yesterday and the furniture, etc, sold at astonishingly high prices. The pair of black ponies brought \$300; a white horse, \$175; and a chesnut, \$115.

THE U. S. R. C. LINCOLN, and the U. S. Surveying Brig Fauntleroy, came across from Port Angeles yesterday. Mr Wilson, the Collector of Customs, was the only passenger.

THE H. B. CO'S SCHOONER MINK, Capt. Ella, will sail this morning for the Sandwich Islands with a full cargo of merchandise.

THE HIGH WIND yesterday drove several small vessels bound across the Sound back into the harbor for shelter.

The New Westminster Election.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Oct. 17th, 1866. EDITORS COLONIST & CHRONICLE. - The election is now over as far as New Westminster is concerned, and in spite of Mr Robson and his friends, the "New Westminster clique" are defeated in their very stronghold. From the very commencement of the contest up to 2 o'clock on the day of polling, Robson and his friends offered long odds that the vote would give him over 50 majority, while the doctor and his friends, fearing and doubting the result, were saving in a few instances, "bluffed down" as far as betting was concerned. Every influence was brought to bear against Black. Not only in the sheet called the Columbian, which swarmed with misrepresentations, but the doctor was made to stand before the public as the "Victoria candidate," the "Government machine," "anti-New Westminster," supported by Victoria capital and influence. Early on the morning of the poll the lonely streets (or street) of New Westminster was a scene of bustle and excitement. The "Green," the doctor's colours appeared predominant, while the "Blue," Robson's, confident of the victory in the neighbourhood of the new Victoria office. At 12 o'clock, thanks to the hard labours of the "two youngsters" who almost alone worked the outside canvass for Black, the doctor was 15 ahead, and to the astonishment of even Black's warmest friends and Robson's disgust, the poll closed with 40 majority for the doctor. Immediately after the declaration of the returning officer, the victors were chaired around the town. So ended the first lesson. The government vote was nearly divided, while the staunch men and the majority of the ex-Royal Engineers voted against Robson. One amusing sight occurred for the Robson party during the day. It was discovered that Kanakas could vote, and as we can boast of 15 of these delightful creatures in "Stumptown," the Robson party made every endeavor to procure their services and at the last made certain of their votes. One of the youngsters was despatched after them and amid great excitement and "righteous indignation" on the part of the "Blues"; they recorded a Black vote. Sour grapes. Harrison Rive and Douglas have given Black a majority, and at present in the whole District, Robson stands 15 ahead of the poll. It seems that there is much to be said about the manner in which the votes of the upper settlements were polled, and there is doubt the doctor will gain much by the revision of votes. Of one thing we are certain, that the city majority is a stinging defeat and is felt badly, and where an overwhelming majority was confidently expected, 15, with the prospect of a minority, is the result. The matter is by no means settled. J. R. M.

Letter from French Creek.

FRENCH CREEK, October 2d, 1866. EDITORS COLONIST & CHRONICLE. - A war of the fact that M. Deffis, your valuable correspondent for these mines has gone below, I thought a few lines from an old friend would perhaps be acceptable.

There is some little excitement here about the forthcoming elections for the Legislature, which are to take place on McCulloch creek on the 11th inst; here on 12th at Szymour on the 22d; and the day of election for the Kootenay District is to be decided by the Judge at Wild Horse Creek. There are four candidates in the field on this creek viz: R. J. Smith, Judge Ferris, John Barnston and W. McNamara. It is hardly

necessary to dilate on their respective qualifications. Suffice it to say that the great majority of electors on French Creek, nearly all on McCulloch, all at Szymour and the isle only fit and proper candidate on the tapis to represent them in the Legislative Council. Mr Smith has held two meetings; about thirty of the most respectable inhabitants have formed themselves into a committee and will by their praiseworthy efforts return the advocate Union on fair and equitable terms, retrenchment of the Civil Service, the abolition of road tolls with an equivalent levied at the port of entry; the fostering of the mining and agricultural interests, the extension and improving of trails. The other candidates had sufficient confidence in themselves to deem it unnecessary to express their principles. I quite agree with them - they are pretty well known.

MINING. Apart from electioneering I may say the prospects of this creek are decidedly bright. Several of the claims in the upper part of the creek have this week got out rich prospects, inducing the belief that the best days of French Creek are yet to come. But the claim at present engrossing most attention is the celebrated Black Hawk Tunnel claim. This company, composed of two men, are mining on the side hill about a quarter of a mile from town and though they have only been a few weeks at work, and at present have a very meagre supply of water, they took out last week over 12 ounces - one nugget weighing \$38 50. They are now, along with another company located near them, engaged in bringing in a ditch, and when this is completed it is the general opinion here the richest part of French Creek will be found to be in this hill. Next below them is the Howlett Co., composed of the best of the substantial men in the place; this claim is at present laid over, as the ditch is not completed; when it is no expense will be spared in proving it, but from the character of the ground above it is thought that not much outlay will be necessary. They believe they have got the best thing in the country.

PIONEER.

ALL FOR LOVE. - The Walla Walla Statesman relates how a man in that town got himself in an inextricable difficulty, "all for love".

On Tuesday last, Messrs. Brown Brothers & Co., discovered that their porter, Charles Hubert, had been perpetrating a series of robberies, which had extended over several months. It seems that the porter had made the acquaintance of a family named Shattuck, and conceiving an affection for one of the girls of the family, a grass widow, sought to propitiate his suit by making her all manner of presents. The other members of the family also came in for a share of his good offices, and on all of them he lavished presents in the utmost profusion. This liberality extended not only to articles of ornament, but to those of a more practical character, and included not only fine dresses for the ladies, and shoes and clothing for the children, but full supplies of groceries, canned fruits, oysters, and in fact every article necessary to the enjoyment of life. His plan was to wait until the store was closed at night, when he would remain behind and pass out at a rear door whatever articles were required to the old man Shattuck, who carried them off. When discovered, after demurring for a time, he made a full confession, and stated the manner of his operations. In his trunk was found a lot of tea and a box of cigars that had been stolen from the store, and on repairing to Shattuck's house a stock of goods sufficient to start a respectable store was found. Dress goods in great variety, sewing silk by the pound, crushed sugar by the sack, an assortment of ladies' and children's shoes, sacks of flour, packages of tea, and in fact a duplicate of nearly every article to be found in the store. His excuse was that the Shattucks were poor, and being friends of his, he desired to relieve them. The articles found in the house were taken in custody by Sheriff Settel, and will be held as evidence against the thief when his case comes up for trial at the October term of the District Court. The Shattucks were arrested on the charge of receiving stolen goods, but inasmuch as the Messrs Brown declined to prosecute them they were discharged. The dishonest porter is now in jail, and already begins to realize that "the way of the transgressor is hard." The opinion is that the Shattucks got him into all his trouble, and that had it not been for them he never would have abused the confidence of his employers. Charley's misfortune was to fall in love, and under the influence of the rosy god he perpetrated a series of robberies that will send him to a prison cell for years to come.

JOHANNISBERG. - According to the Paris press the lovers of Johannisberg wine have remarkable little chance of receiving a fresh supply this year; and the Prince de Meternich, ambassador though he be, will be considerably out of pocket. His old castle has often been subject to the vicissitudes of war. In 1109 it was an old convent. A marriage of Brandenburg burnt it some centuries later. In 1720 the Abbot of Fulda purchased the estate and built a castle. Being a jolly friar, it struck him it would be pleasant to make his own wine; and accordingly he planted vines in all directions, and presently sold 1,350 bottles at 27 francs per bottle (£1 1s. 1d.). In 1802 William, King of Holland, bought the castle. Napoleon I. appropriated it, and presented it to the Duke de Valmy, in 1805. The father of its present proprietor, the mighty diplomatist Prince de Meternich, bought it from Kellermann in 1813, and left it to his son, the present Austrian ambassador to the Tuilleries.

A German paper relates the following story of one of the late battles, which is not altogether incredible "A young soldier in the midst of the tumult of battle, thought he saw on the grass a four-leaved shamrock growing. As such a plant is rare, and is considered to bring good luck, he stooped to take it. At that very moment a cannon ball passed over his head, so near that he must have been killed if he had not been standing down. The man so miraculously saved has sent the plant to which he owes his life to his betrothed in Konigsburg.

Tuesday, October 23 1866.

The Real Estate Tax.

The Sheriff, we are very learn, will exercise a discretion in the collection of the distraint. This is right. who cannot pay should be paid a time when it is difficult body and soul together. The man who can pay, but that should receive the Sheriff's attentions. We observe that a donec cotemporary is endeavoring to inflame the public mind on this point, and with his usual recklessness advises the people not to pay. To follow such advice would be silly on the part of the proprietors, and we do not believe man who proffers it is sincerely generally has an axe of his grind when he endeavors to discontent, and we should not prised to find his name on the quent roll of tax payers. If he be really there, his advice is accepted as a new reading of story of the monkey and the nuts. He wants to incite some resist the enforcement of the that the matter may be but not at the editor's The cost of Government is ind great in these Colonies; but to bring about a reform does n an act of rebellion. We there vise all good people who can the tax, and use their best en to send members to the Coun will employ all constitutional m reduce the expenses of govern and lower and equalize tax. Should the editor of the Telegr disposed to resist the law ar himself up as a martyr, let him it is high time that he did son to prove his sincerity; but we that no reader will suffer himse made a catspaw of to pull the ial chestnuts out of the fire.

Facts and Figures.

The best argument we have against the annexation heresy is contained in an article from the Times of August 13th, which w entire this morning. The draws a comparison between the tion of the United States and England, and shows conclusively while the United States is the iest, England is the lightest country in the world. In ten England has surrendered duties amount of ten millions of p and yet the falling off in the is little more than two millions. United States, on the other ha increased her customs' duties, h ternal tax, and her income tax taxes every trader, every ma turer, and every manufacturer and her export trade is falling while that of England has inc in value in two and a half nearly nineteen millions sterling sent out three thousand new mer ships last year, and has for thousand ships afloat; and yet told that England is retrogr read this article.

"Two Reports which have recently issued under the authority of our own government and that of the United States as the means of contrasting the amount revenue raised from certain sources in the financial system pursued in each. official Reports from the United States sent an account with which the Am people cannot well be dissatisfied. amount of money now raised by taxati almost incredible, and yet there are no complaints, - people, for instance, rather gl paying an enormous income-tax than evade it. This enthusiasm for the yoke no doubt, disappear as the newness of burden wears off, but in the meantime people are giving the Government, appearance quite willingly, the im sum of \$1,075,513,347 a year, or \$215,702,669. The year before the 1860 - the total receipts from the revenue amounted only to a little over fifteen quarter millions of pounds. In 1859 were \$706,995,493, and what they we the financial year ending the 30th of last we have just stated. It cannot be d that the American people must have a appreciation by this time of the ter cost of war.

Of the entire receipts from taxation United States in 1865-6, very nearly six millions of pounds (we put the suc English money for the sake of compar were derived from Customs alone. In same period the English Customs amounted to £21,574,866. A much