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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1866. NO. 10.

THE BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING.
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Nanaimo
New Westminster
Quesnel, B. C.
Lynton
Richfield
Barkerville
Camerontown
Clinton
San Francisco
Clement's Lane, London
30 Cornhill, London

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS.
Charles Lever gives us an amusing colloquy between the brother of an eminent Irish barrister and a distinguished personage who was on a tour through the Emerald Isle. The subject was the manner in which the barrister succeeded in obtaining verdicts. "What is his peculiar mode with the jurors?" asks the visitor. "Well, you see," responds the enquiring brother, "he first butters them up and then slithers them down." We think our morning contemporary is emulating in a weak manner the Irish barrister. In Saturday's issue, we have one half the editorial devoted to "buttering" up the Liberal members of the House in their course on the estimates and the other half to "slithering" them down. We do not expect the *Chronicle* to come out, to use a rather inelegant but forcible expression, "flatfooted" on any subject. It has a happy knack of "straddling the fence," and on the Assembly's work of Friday that we could have no other dissertation.

ment was good—retrenchment was necessary but then the Liberal members should not have taken the initiative. It was right that the House of Assembly should have cut down the official salaries; but then how dare the Liberal members undertake to do it? All this was bad; but the offence was aggravated by deciding upon the scheme outside the House. To think that the public business of the country should be confined to men who meet in secret conclave to arrange the political programme that is to be laid before the Assembly! Who ever heard of so monstrous an outrage on a representative body? Even in responsible Governments who ever heard of the ministerial supporters or the opposition meeting outside the Legislative halls to decide on their political course of action? The thing is preposterous! The way the business of the House of Commons is carried on is patterned after Donnybrook, where every man had his own say, and dared his neighbor to contradict him. There is no such thing as preconcerted action. The same thing may be said of the Canadian and every other respectable colonial Legislature. The whole work is extemporized when the members meet, every one pitches in indiscriminately, and a "free fight" ensues all round. How else could they get through the business of the session? Let us suppose, for an instant, that the Ministry concocted their schemes and plans outside the House—that their supporters were made aware of the programme, and that everything so far as they were concerned was out and dried before the House met—can any one see that the termination of the session would be indefinitely prolonged? The way really to carry on the public business with despatch is to ignore preparation—to go into the House of Assembly an unorganized body, a respectable mob, with neither head nor tail, object nor aim. It was by such good management that Vancouver Island got through her ten months' sessions in previous years, and why should we not take the *Chronicle's* advice and come back to it? Well, we shall say why. We want to see the business of the colony carried through the Legislature in a couple of months. We want men to go into the House with a purpose before them, with a clear comprehension of the work that is to be done and the method to accomplish it. We want a band of organized representatives bound together to carry out the public will—to inaugurate reforms and to save the pockets of the inhabitants. We are glad to say that for the first time in the history of the colony there is an independent majority in the Assembly, and one that, come what

may, will receive the full approbation of the public. The mandarin tears which our contemporary shed on Saturday over the action of the Liberal members are merely so much waste brines, which had better be hoarded up for more profitable occasions. They will certainly affect neither the public nor the House of Assembly. The scheme of retrenchment which has been commenced will be carried out. It is not a haphazard nor an uncalculated scheme, but a carefully prepared plan for reducing the public expenditure, and the minority in the House have no reason to say it has not been sufficiently explained to them so far as it is concerned. Another objection is, that the offices, not a reduction of officials, not a curtailment of salary but has been properly considered and adapted to the exigencies of the times. There is certainly nothing in the Liberal members' programme that can make the public service any less efficient than it has been; but much that will have the double effect of reducing taxation and saving the public time; for the Executive under the new arrangement will be obliged to dispense with much of that red-tape, which has had the effect of employing an endless and equally needless quantity of stationery, and which has caused the public to dance attendance at nearly every department of Government before they could get the most trifling bill against the Executive paid. The charge made by some of the obstructive members in the House, and echoed by our obstructive contemporary, that partiality was shown in the retrenchment which has been made is too ridiculous almost for comment. Every person acquainted with our system of Government knows that appointments are not filled by the Assembly, but by the Executive, and that if the House abolishes or amalgamates the office of Treasurer with some other department of Government, the Governor determines whether the official removed might not better fill the position of assessor, &c., than the gentleman who by the action of the House has been left to manage the office. All such changes, if any are to be made, belong to the Governor. All the House has to do is to cut

to work out the other portion of the problem. If in these changes the Governor retains men who are notoriously unpopular or unfit, in preference to those who have shown a desire to accommodate the public and a capacity for their position, that is his responsibility. The time, however, is not far distant when the House on the part of the people will see that those men only shall hold office who are acceptable to the public.

TELEGRAPHIC.
Special Dispatch to the "Colonist."
EUROPE.
NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—The London *Shipping Gazette* of December 18th says that Stephens, the Fenian leader, was not in the employ of the Government, and that he was appointed by mistake; having been taken, however, it was absolutely necessary to keep up the appearance by confining him to jail, since he was well known to have taken part with the sedition party. When imprisoned all necessary facilities were given him, and thus he made what is called his mysterious escape. This is only surmise, but it is to a certain extent supported by facts. The Lord Lieutenant offered to appoint a commission to enquire into the case. On the other hand, the fact that the Governor of Richmond Bridwell is dismissed, tells somewhat against this, but its supporters allege that advantage was taken of these events to modify the government of Bridwell.

CALIFORNIA.
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 9.—D. O. Macarty and L. P. Macarty, proprietors of the *American Flag* newspaper, commenced suit to recover \$20,000 damages for breach of contract from O. M. Clay, the proprietor of the *Stockton Independent*. Plaintiffs allege that they had succeeded in breaking up the monopoly of Overland Telegraph news enjoyed by the *Bulletin*, *Alta* and *Union*, and that their own circulation and advertising patronage was greatly increased thereby; that defendant bargained to purchase their interest in the *Flag* for \$28,800, which bargain he afterwards failed to fulfill. Plaintiffs further allege that as soon as it became known to the public that they were about to dispose of their interest in the *Flag* that their circulation and advertising patronage rapidly decreased, and they claim \$20,000 damages from defendant for losses sustained and for breach of contract.
G. and C. DeYoung, publishers of the *Daily Dramatic Chronicle*, commenced original prosecution for libel to-day against Sheridan Corbin, the theatrical manager, for publishing an alleged libellous card in the *Morning Call*, in which he characterized the *Chronicle* as a black mail smuck and abolition sheet. It is said that a civil suit for damages will soon be commenced against the *Morning Call* for publishing the card in question.
David Harris was convicted this morning of voting twice at the last election.
William Culverwell filed application in insolvency. He made \$12,000 in Victoria in

FROM EUROPE.
[Despatches to the *Oregonian*.]
SPREAD OF THE CATTLE PLAGUE.
MANCHESTER MARKETS CLOSURE FOR 8 WEEKS—THE JAMAICA REBELLION—FRENCH MATTERS—TREATY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AUSTRIA—FUNERAL OF THE KING OF BELGIUM.
New York, Jan. 4.—The Harman from Southampton, December 20th, brings three days' later news from Europe.
The decline of gold from Paris to Alexandria continues. There is still an absence of arrivals. Demand is full scale, but in the Stock Exchange the supply is rather abundant. The Kent and Great Britain are the only gold ships expected, and they are reported to have sailed from Melbourne for England; the former has 68,084 ounces, the latter 13,455 ounces. The Cornelia is on the way from Sydney with 61,188 ounces.
The Imperial Ottoman Bank has issued a prospectus for a Turkish 6 per cent loan for \$6,000,000, and it has been recently announced as negotiated in Paris at 68.
United States five twenties have improved to 11 1/2.
The cattle disease is spreading; the number of deaths are estimated at 40,000; upwards of 5000 are reported a week.
On account of the cattle plague the mayor of Manchester closed the markets of that town for eight weeks.
The *Times'* Dublin correspondent asserts that the treaty of peace between England and Austria has been fully drawn up and will be signed immediately.
In Belgium the funeral obsequies of the late King of Belgium took place on the 13th. Leopold II took the oath to the constitution before the Belgian parliament.
It is reported the Lord Lieutenant refused to appoint a commission to inquire into the escape of Stevens.
The London *Morning Star* says the first Fenian prisoner had on trial at Cork was Capt. McCafferty who served in the Confederate army, and who was a subject of the United States; he was arrested while aboard the steamer from America, and his counsel objected that he was an alien, who in his own country could not commit the offence for which he was charged, and who had not set foot in our land when he was arrested. I judge held that this allegation was fatal to the indictment, and the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty."
The *Daily News* says a committee has been formed under the title of the "Jamaica Committee" to forward official inquiry about to be instituted by the Government into the recent events in Jamaica, and bring a present condition of Jamaica.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.
The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday afternoon from New Westminster with a small express and thirty passengers, among whom were the Messrs. Cornwall, Rev. E. Robson, Mr. Frontin and others. The Enterprise was delayed by having had to convey Mr. McKay and his working party up the river as far as Somass, where they were left to push their way over the ice. The Enterprise's bow and sides were considerably torn through contact with the ice.
There was no later intelligence from up country of any importance.
[From the *Columbian*.]
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 10.—Steamer Golden City took \$983,926 in treasure and a large number of passengers.
On the 30th of October the safe of J. B. Rittenhouse, United States Fleet Paymaster at Panama, was broken into and robbed of \$16,000 in gold. The robbery was traced to two men, Ned McLaughlin and one Bradley. Bradley was captured in Panama and about \$6000 recovered from him. McLaughlin came to this city with his share and was arrested a few days ago. After his capture in order to prevent his escape either by habeas corpus, or any other way, he was placed on board the Saranoa where he has been since, until to-day, when he took his departure on the steamer Golden City for Panama in charge of Lieut. Stillman. The officers are on the track of McLaughlin's share of the money and are confident of success in regaining a large portion of it.
Judge Haight of the United States Circuit Court yesterday ordered that Henry B. Hyde, Master in Equity, in the case of George Jordan vs. The South Fork Canal Co. do forthwith execute and deliver a deed of the

RAID UPON GAMBLERS.
THE ACTIVE & SIERRA NEVADA.
COLUMBIA RIVER FROZEN.
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12.—Pacific Mail Steamship Colorado arrived at 1 p.m. today. List of passengers:—E. F. Haffrich, Rev. Mr. Messenger, Thomas Fallon, Harrison Young, W. Charter, Mrs. Miller, Anson Cox, S. M. Hammond, N. Wickliffe and wife, Miss Hunt, James Bisset, Miss B. R. Van Eaton, J. Spinovic, wife and infant, Mrs. Strade, J. C. Fall, Walton Campbell, Mrs. S. Edor, A. F. Tibbers, A. B. Lowe, D. W. Cheesman, D. Bailey, Baggage-master, Mrs. C. T. Shillaber, Miss Templeton, Louis Phillips, G. M. Cole, J. A. Delano and wife, J. A. Coleman, Miss Calkins, Mrs. Humphreys, H. Kaastau, Mrs. M. E. Perry, Mrs. Scott and two children, J. D. Hunt, Misses L. and M. Appleworth, Mrs. H. S. Bingham, Captain Pardo de Bella, John Schuler, Mrs. P. J. K. F. H. White, D. S. N. M. ...
Panama papers of the 30th ult. contain later advices from South America.
No movements of importance had transpired in Chile.
Michael L. Wolf recovered a verdict in the Fifteenth District Court of \$500 against Stephen Otis.
The finding of the Court Martial in the case of Captain Frederick Mears was disapproved by General Halleck.
J. M. White, a gambler, known among the sporting fraternity as "Colonel White," was convicted in the County Court, yesterday, of dealing cards. The conviction was based on the testimony of Thomas H. Lohi. During the examination of witnesses in this case Chas. Burroughs, proprietor of the rooms where White had been dealing, was present in the room and was suddenly called to the stand and compelled to give testimony which convicted the defendant. Since the above the gamblers under indictment have all pleaded to one indictment each, and will be sentenced on the 20th inst. There were fourteen in all who pleaded guilty, being one-half the number of indictments in the County Calendar. The balance of the indictments were dismissed. In addition to the successful game practiced by the District Attorney General yesterday, he also summoned a number of patrons of the gambling halls which no doubt had a great deal to do with bringing the gamblers to terms.
The steam propeller Ajax will leave tomorrow morning for Hoxolulu, being the pioneer in a monthly line of steamers here, to ply regularly between San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands. The Ajax takes out on her first trip 75 passengers and about 200 tons of freight.
PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—Steamer Active, from Victoria, arrived last night after a favorable passage. She leaves for Victoria on Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock. Steamer Sierra Nevada is still aground with no prospect of getting off until the river rises. The Columbia river is full of ice, and the Oregon Steam Navigation Company's boats are unable to make their usual trips to the Dalles.
SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.
Brandy—There is more inquiry for French, and the market favors the seller.
Candles—1,000 boxes Grant's and Knapp's sold at 27 1/2¢ lb.
Coal Oil—Further sales of 15,000 gallons, assorted brands, at \$1.30. We understand the price will be advanced to \$1.40 on Monday next.
Flour—Superfine, half sacks \$6 25 bbl. qr sacks \$6 50; Extra, half sacks \$6 50; qr sacks, \$6 75; Extra Bakers', hf sacks, \$6 75; qr sacks, \$7. Outside country brands sell at 25¢ bbl off.
Wheat—Prices are firm. Sales of 8,000 sacks choice milling at \$2 10 1/2 100 lb; 700 do good, \$2 05; and 50 do private.
Barley—Sales of 1,000 sacks feed at \$1 65, and 900 do brewing at \$1 07 1/2 100 lb.
Oats—There is more movement, and the market is better, with sales of 1,400 sacks at \$1 65, and 2,500 do; part, if not all, at \$1 70 100 lb.
Wool—There are a shade firmer to-day.
Sailed—Jan. 12.—Bark Marimaka, Puget Sound; bark W. H. Gawley, Puget Sound.

premises sold to the purchaser in accordance with the terms of sale. It appears that there is due \$31,400 with interest from Nov. 30, 1865, execution is ordered to issue.
The brig Franconia arrived to-day from Santa Barbara; reports Edwin Gore, second mate, and John Barrans, were washed overboard and drowned.
In the absence of later gold dispatches, there is not much doing in legal tenders: At the board 70 1/2 was bid and 71 asked.

Kootenay and Big Bend.
BLACKFOOT RECIPROcity.
From a private letter dated Fox Shoshone, Idaho, to the *British Columbian*, we learn that the Big Bend diggings are the all absorbing theme. Everybody talks about them, thinks about them, dreams about them, and every available human being is going to them at the earliest possible moment. New creeks are continually reported, while the richness of the older ones, such as French, Gairnes and McCulloch's, is being more and more established. In short, it is the general opinion amongst the miners that these mines are extensive and rich—rich beyond anything that has ever been known in this or any other country. Up to the close of this season there has been very little done in the Gold Creek district save prospecting, opening claims, &c. McCulloch's Creek the only claim really open in the Discovery claim, and it has yielded from 20 to 30 ounces a day. The gold is coarse, many pieces weighing from \$12 to \$19. This is the favorite creek; it prospects splendidly to its very source, a distance of over five miles from where the lower gold is found; from there to its confluence, a distance of about three miles, it has not been worked.
A new creek has been discovered, emptying into Gold Creek five or six miles above its mouth, which prospects from \$1 to \$1.50 to the pan, while another new creek, about five miles above French Creek, prospects very rich. The mountain from which all these streams take their rise seems to be a second Bald Mountain.
Every man who comes down, though he may not have the "color" in his pocket, expresses the most unbounded confidence in these mines, and such expressions as "I've got a good claim," "That is a rich country," "I'll bet my bottom dollar on the Big Bend mines," &c., are upon every tongue.
The weather is still mild, with little or no frost, and some are still going up in boats, but not many, most of the people being afraid to risk it at so late a period in the season. Two big boats passed up this week with money and big expectations—a fine dashing lot of fellows. If the season keeps open people will continue to go up all winter—at all events there is going to be "a d—l of a rush" in March. An Express messenger has been dispatched into the Boise country from Colville to advise friends to come over. The richness of the mines is known at Walla Walla, Portland, &c., and all is bustle and preparation either to go to the Big Bend or to make money out of those who do go—Kootenay is flat—almost abandoned for the more attractive diggings of Big Bend. There are only about fifty white men left. The Chinamen are beginning to go in, and work the mines on shares. Two of the Hudson Bay Company's clerks have taken the "gold fever," and are getting a boat built to take up a cargo of provisions. In fact every one has the fever, and those only who cannot get away will remain here.
Tompkins and Jones have returned from the Blackfoot mines not over favorably impressed with American laws and the mode of enforcing them in vogue over in that country, which might with much propriety be called the "Blackleg" country. It appears that Tompkins and Jones, two British Columbia packers, got a cargo of 16,000 lbs. to carry from Wild Horse Creek to the Blackfoot mines, for which they were to receive 19 cents a pound. When near Flat Head Lake the United States Customs officers pounced upon them, seizing and confiscating their goods and animals, and it was only by a bribe of \$1700 and four horses that they were enabled to extricate themselves, and the residue of their train from the keen grip of American officialdom. This was done, be it remembered, before the packers had reached a Customs station, and consequently before they had an opportunity of paying the duties; so there had been no attempt at all; there was no intention, to evade the payment of the legal exactions of the country into which they had entered. But this disgraceful piece of business does not differ materially from the general practice. All goods passing over the line from the British side are subjected to enormous duties, averaging certainly not less than 62 1/2 per cent upon their value. Indeed it is evident that our neighbors are determined that the trade across the boundary line shall only work one way, and while there has been no end of howling about the charges levied by us upon the American trade coming in here, they are making our goods pay about five times as much, and not only so, but upon the slightest pretext at all goods and animals are confiscated. This Yankee reciprocity! at least as we have it up this way, and if the British Columbia Government does not checkmate our neighbors in some way, we "poor Britishers" must play second fiddle to Uncle Sam, and the interests to the north of the 49th parallel of latitude will be sacrificed in every way to those to the southward of it.

BURNED INLET.—The Egeria is now nearly loaded. She takes 225 spars for Capt. Stamp and 175 thousand feet of lumber from Moody & Co's mills. She will sail for Glasgow direct. The Kent has nearly discharged her cargo and will load with lumber at Moody & Co's mills for Mexico.—*Columbian*.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY
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VIT TREES!
Country Produce
BEGG & CO.
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16,000
Grown Fruit Trees!
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EL SCOTT & CO.
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OTIONEERS,
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SSION Merchants,
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AUCTION ROOMS,
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REET, next Wharf,
TORIA, V. I.
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Hammond & Co.
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