Stage over the Wagon Road, and
g Meals and Beds through.

	Dist.	Time.	Rates.	Meals
	175	24 hrs	$4	$6
nloops				
	133	24 hrs	40	8
	120	16 hrs	10	4
o Col-				
	35	18 hrs	—	9

r of hours travelling, 51
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oot from Yale to Lake Kamloops,
and Beds at Wayside Houses.

	Dist.	Time.	Rate.	Meals
	175	24 hrs	$4	$6
nloops				
	133	5 days	—	10
	120	1 day	10	4
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	35	2 days	—	9

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	175	24 hrs	$4	$6
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	35	2 days	—	

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uthority of the Victoria Chamber

V GOODS!
Recent Arrivals.
RS' SMALL-WARES
M BIRMINGHAM.
Modern Improvements!
—COMPRISING—
S AND SEAL PRESSES,
xes, Pen Racks; Inkstands; as
r Clips and Weights; Cash and
Writing Desks, Cases and Folios;
el Pens; Backgammon and Crib-
; Chess Men; Dominoes; Dice;
ars; Post Office Scales; Ivory,
hell Card Cases; Ivory Paper
Tablets; Artists' Materials; Ma-
Instruments; Porcelain Slates;
passes; Spring Tape Measures;
ires; Ladies' Companions; In-
c.
—ALSO,—
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emorandum and Pass Books;
lic Mems; Faber's Lead Pencils;
riting Fluid, Faber's Drawing
rnold's Coying Ink; Faber's
Arnold's Carmine; Rodger's
ery and Scissors; Windsor &
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ng Books; Scrap Books; Rock-
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Whatmas' Drawing Paper; Trac-
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; Printing and Wrapping Paper;
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Note, Draft. Order and Receipt
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and Receivable Books; Blank
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EN & CARSWELL.
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Incorporated by Spec' Act of Parliament.
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PANY OFFERS TO
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Security, Moderate
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ation to the undersigned, who
risks.
BERTSON STEWART,
ARF STREET, VICTORIA, V.
Columbia and Vancouver Island
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PERIAL
rance Company!
street; and 16, Pall Mall,
LONDON.
ITUTED 1803.
ses and other Buildings, Goods,
e, Manufacturing and Farming
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hips; also, Ships Building and
and other Vessels on navigable
and Goods on board such Ves-
OR DAMAGE BY FIRE.
pital, £1,600,000.
rance and every information
he Agent's office.
ERTSON STEWART, Agent,
Wharf street, Victoria, V. I.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1866. NO 24.

THE BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED
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VICTORIA, V. I.

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Three Months, do	3 50
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Published every Tuesday morning.

One Year, (in advance,)	$6 00
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Three Months, do	2 50
Single copies,	25 cents.

AGENTS.

John Meakin,	Nanaimo
Clarkson & Co.,	New Westminster
Barnard's Express,	Quesnelle, B. C
" "	Lytton
" "	Vanwinkle
" "	Richfield
" "	Barkerville
" "	Camerontown
" "	Clinton
L. P. Fisher,	San Francisco
F. Algar,	Clement's Lane, London
G. Street,	30 Cornhill, London

A MONSTROSITY KILLED.

After much hurry, quick combination, and unheard of energy on the part of the slow-going coaches of both Assembly and Council, the great bill for the relief of the unfortunate absentee land speculators has come to an untimely end,—is in fact dead. The public purse will therefore not suffer the present year, because of the negligence of landed proprietors who may be "doing" the tour of Europe and depending on the industry of the inhabitants of Vancouver Island to keep up the value of their property. Our only regret is that so much eloquence, so much vigor, and so much wire-pulling should have gone for naught—that rules should have been ignored in both Houses, and a regular *habeas corpus* suspension excitement got up to no purpose. Up till last Monday no person had heard of a bill to break public contracts by act of the Legislature, but Mr. Cochrane, on that eventful day, broached the question in the House by giving notice that he would ask leave to introduce a bill to prevent the Government fulfilling their obligations to the purchasers of lots at the Sheriff's sale of April last. Other members would have allowed the usual day or so to intervene before asking leave of the House, but Mr. Cochrane was determined to take time by the forelock, and so he asked for the suspension of the rules, in order that he might obtain leave to bring in the bill and pass it the same day on which the first intimation of the measure was given. Of course members who saw great objections in suspending the rules for the transaction of business that had received ample discussion, were only glad of an opportunity to suspend the rules on a question that had never the slightest chance of being discussed, and which aimed at nothing else than a breach of faith with the public. Hitherto the rules of the House had never been suspended on a subject that had not been introduced in the usual form, and on which the members had not had an opportunity of debating. In this instance, however, the whole question was burked, and members who chanced to be absent on the day of its introduction were astonished to find in the evening paper that the bill had passed through all its stages and had gone to the Upper House.—We bring the case forward to show the duplicity of some of those gentlemen who have on previous occasions expressed their abhorrence of suspending the rules—those choice and fastidious spirits who stumble at the gnat and swallow the camel. We are not opposed to suspending any form or ceremony occasionally to facilitate public business—we do not go to the conservative lengths of Drs. Helmcken, Tolmie, and Ash; for we believe there are occasions frequently in legislation where it is a benefit to remove the barriers to despatch; but we detest the wretched hypocrisy that talks in one breath of the danger of hasty legislation, and then goes in for an abrogation of every restraint down even to a notice of motion. We respect men like those we have named, who have the moral courage and moral principle to adhere to their honest convictions; but for those vaccillating members whose opinions are more variable than our winter winds, we have and the public have nothing but contempt. These are the men who, with all their mouthing a little while ago about Executive encroachments, were ready yesterday to swallow the whole constitution of the Island at a gulp. Had the Colonial Secretary told them to suspend the *habeas corpus* and put the Island under martial law, they would have done it with an energy of toadyism worthy of the cause. What is the prerogative of a representative body to them? What the interests of the public—if a little back door Government influence is exerted on their plastic minds. And these are the men who feel suddenly contaminated by the presence of Mr. Dennes. We are no apologist for the member for Salt Spring, but we can safely say that his record in the House is as bright as the best of them, and infinitely brighter than the wriggling Chairman, Trimble, who has been everything and nothing by turns—whose political feelings led him yesterday to distort the vote of Dr. Tolmie, and to act more like a violent and unscrupulous partizan than a dignified and impartial presiding officer. The absurd bill is dead, and the people of Vancouver Island have reason to be thankful for it; for independent of the damaging character it would have had on all future dealings between the public and the Government, it was a cleverly conceived plot to cause the supplies to be again opened, and a host of official salaries raised and voted by the flunkies who are now disposed to carry out to the letter the injunctions of the Executive. Fortunately the scheme failed, and fortunately the time is not far distant when the political refuse, which now lies like an incubus on the Assembly, will be swept from the House never more to return.

TELEGRAPHIC.

(From the Columbian.)

Eastern News.

U. S. FLEET FOR THE FISHING GROUND.

WASHINGTON, April 14—The President sent a message to the House to-day saying that the Secretary of the Navy has taken measures to send a fleet to the fishing grounds to protect American interests. There is no recommendation to Congress deemed necessary at the present time.

ANNUITY TO MRS. M'COOK.

The House yesterday, after two hours debate, voted an annuity of $2,500 to Mrs. McCook, mother of the gallant McCook boys, in addition to the pension which she draws since the death of her husband during the Morgan raid. The only point of opposition to it was that it might furnish a precedent for annuities.

The Senate yesterday passed a resolution establishing the rate of pensions at $25 monthly in all cases of total disability requiring constant aid of another person; $20 monthly in all cases of total disability not requiring personal aid; and $5 when disability interferes with labor.

ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN'S DEATH.

CHICAGO, April 14—The annual anniversary of Lincoln's assassination is being generally observed to day in all the eastern cities. Public offices are closed by order of Secretary Seward, and flags are at half mast, etc. At Madison, Wisconsin, by order of the Governor, half-hour guns were fired from sunrise till sunset. The event will be further observed to-morrow by religious exercises.

PROSECUTIONS AT MEMPHIS.

CHICAGO, April 13—Several negroes have been prosecuted at Memphis under the State Law for keeping bar and billiard saloons. Their counsel pleaded the Civil Rights Bill in defence, and the Judge will deliver his opinion in a few days.

THE ASTORIA CUSTOMS ROBBERY.

NEW YORK, April 13—John Lambert, an Englishman, has been arrested, charged with stealing twenty thousand dollars from William L. Adams, Collector of Astoria, Oregon.

THE EXPLOSION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

FURTHER DETAILS.

Loss of the Steamer Labouchere.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16.—From the *Alta's* extra the following particulars of a terrible calamity are given:—At thirteen and a-half minutes past one o'clock p. m., to-day, our city was startled by a shock like the explosion of some vast mine during a siege, and for many blocks in every direction from the north-west corner of California and Montgomery streets, the air was filled with dust and flying rubbish, and glass came rattling down from every window as if the explosion had occurred in each separate building. The consternation which seized on the passers by Wells & Fargo's was terrible; men, women, children, horsemen, pedestrians, dray and express teams without drivers, came charging pell-mell down the street in inextricable confusion. As soon as the first panic began to subside, there was an immense rush towards Wells, Fargo & Co.'s building, and the streets were for a few seconds so blocked up that it was almost impossible for fire engines to be brought into position to check the flames, which it was thought were about to break out in the scene of the explosion. At first it was impossible to locate exactly the scene of the explosion, so terrible was the consternation and so general was the ruin in the vicinity; but investigations made within a few minutes demonstrated the fact that it occurred in the rear of Wells, Fargo & Co's buildings, on the north-west corner of California and Montgomery streets, and Bell's Assay office, in the rear of Wells, Fargo & Co's, on California street, between Montgomery and Kearney streets. Our reporter gained admission through the United Club rooms, over Wells, Fargo & Co's and on reaching the rear of the building a scene of ruin, which utterly beggars description, met the eye. The large one story structure, containing the office and billiard saloon of the United Club, over the arched gateway which lead into the rear of Wells, Fargo & Co's office from California street, was an entire wreck. The end was blown out and the floor torn into splinters, the iron roof rolled up like a piece of wall-paper, the rafters hanging loose in every direction. The furniture [illegible] smashed and billiard tables crushed [illegible] weight of debris. The brick [illegible] the Union Club, which stood in [illegible] in the rear of Wells, Fargo & [illegible] gone entirely, only fragments of the [illegible] bers lying here and there among the debris which filled the area. The rear wall of Bell's brick building, used as an Assay office, and the laboratory in the rear of the Assay office, was falling in fragments at every minute, the roof was hanging down unsupported on the side next the area, and the storehouse of Wells, Fargo & Co,, was lying a mere heap of brick plaster and broken timpers. Blood was visible in many blaces, and men, with heads and hands cut by falling glass or timbers, were running back and forth in frantic search for missing friends. The main and rear walls of Wells, Fargo & Co's building were terribly shattered, while fragments of doorways and window sashes only remained in places throughout the entire building. Two fine horses attached to the ruins of Wells, Fargo & Co's express wagon lay in the agonies of death in the area; everybody seemed stunned by the suddenness of the shock, and no one appeared to know which way to turn or where to begin. There was not a whole window for a long distance from the building in which the explosion took place, and in Brannan's block, opposite Wells, Fargo & Co's, on Montgomery street, the Stevenson House opposite, and many buildings between California and Sacramento streets, window frames and doors were generally shattered to fragments, while huge splinters of costly plate glass covered the street. The wood work of Wells, Fargo & Company's establishment was almost wholly blown to fragments, and even the doors were thrown outward into the street. Fragments of human remains were found scattered in many places. A piece of skull was lying on California street, east of Leidsdorff. Other portions of human remains and a human arm struck the second story window of the building across the street.

ORIGIN OF THE DISASTER.

Well's Fargo & Co., who are freight agents for the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., received by the steamer Sacramento, on her late trip up from Panama, a qaantity of nitro-glycerine, which had reached the Isthmus some time ago, consigned to Bandmann, Nelson & Co., of this city; also two cases of the same article, but in larger boxes than Bandman, Nelson & Co's consignment. These boxes were marked plainly "nitro-glycerine acid." The latter two, one of which was addressed to Idaho, and the other to Los Angelos, were refused by the parties to whom they were consigned, as they arrived in a damaged condition. Capt. Cox, Superintendent of the P. M. S. S. Co.'s wharf yesterday morning about 10 o'clock, finding they were leaking, sent them down to Wells, Fargo & Co's office, and they were placed in the court yard in the rear of the office, where the steamer freight unclaimed is usually kept. Webster, the freight clerk of Wells, Fargo & Co., sent for Haven, the freight clerk of the P. M. S. S. Co., to examine the same; both gentlemen lunched at the Union Club room, and afterwards went to the court-yard; the boxes were in the yard leaking, and it is natural to suppose that in examining the box, which is not a very large one, they either kicked or turned it over, and striking the oil on the ground, the concussion exploded the same. Webster and Haven were rent to pieces, showing they must have been immediately over or near the explosive material; no other persons among the dead were so mutilated some having their bodies filled with splinters, others their clothes burned or blown off, and others receiving fractures. Knight, from the appearance of his remains, was evidently killed by concussion The boxes containing the nitro-glycerine which exploded were each 2½ feet high, and their superficial measurement was 14 feet 11 inches; only one exploded, the other being found leaking but unexploded. Two hours after the catastrophe search was made for the wounded. Lying in the rear were three bodies, two not recognised were lifeless, the third, which was underneath the others, proved to be that of Garret H. Bell, assayer, and member of the Board of Supervisors for the Eighth District. Bell's features were found to be sadly mutilated, his clothing almost torn off, but he still breathed, although insensible; he was removed to the Express office of Wells, Fargo & Co., where he soon expired. Meantime the search went on, hundreds taking part from time to time in the mournful work. Capt. Cox, of P. M. Co.'s line was in the building at the time of the explosion, and sent at once for a gang of stevedores from the Mail Co's wharf, and the work of exhuming was thenceforward carried on systematically. The mass of brick and rubbish where the Union Club House kitchen had stood, where it was believed a large number of the sufferers were buried, was removed piece by piece, as the mangled remains were brought out one after another and conveyed away on stretchers or in carriages. This scene was indescribably mournful and impressive.

KILLED AND WOUNDED.

So far as known at this time, 10 p. m., the list of killed or badly wounded is as follows: Employees of Wells, Fargo & Co.: Samuel Knight, Superintendant of the Banking Department, he had just gone out into the yard, must have been instantly killed; F. E. Webster, head of the New York Department, [illegible] the yard to examine the freight with Haven and William Jesler, the porter, and was blown to pieces; Webster was about 40 years of age and leaves a wife and 2 children; William Jesler the porter was killed; John Gallagher and Joseph Elliott, hostlers, were in the yard or stable when the explosion occurred and were both killed; D. B. Stacy, one of the cashiers, cut and bruised about the face and neck; W. J. Taylor, cashier, cuts about the face and neck, painfully but not dangerously injured; L. E. Neander, storekeeper, received several cuts, and a number of the clerks received some scratches.

Employees of the Union Club: Felix Dunivan, cook, killed; F. Rust or F. Loryea, third cook, severely, and it is feared fatally injured; W. R. Cox, steward, badly injured, supposed to be beyond recovery; Chinese assistant, name unknown, missing, probably killed; one other Chinese assistant, name unknown, killed; John Maguire, waiter, missing; J. H. Wright, waiter, missing; Wm. Smith, waiter, leg broken, will recover; Dennis O'Brien, waiter, missing; Jas. Burke, waiter, missing. We learn the names of other persons as follows: G. H. Bell, assayer, who had just stepped to the area to look at his horse which was driven out of the yard on the way to the Petaluma boat, by a groom, but an instant before the explosion; Wm. H. Haven, book-keeper in the P. M. S. S. Co.'s office, killed: H. Blum, clothing dealer adjoining the express office, somewhat injured about the face; Fred. Leise, badly injured; Frank Morris, working for Bell & Co., badly cut about the head; Elliott, another workman, badly cut; A. Hayward, proprietor of the Amadore mine, slightly injured; W. A. Lunt, assayer for Bell, badly, but not dangerously cut and contused. Conclusion. A large number of people were at lunch in the Union Club dining hall, the doors and windows of which were driven out, the furniture destroyed, but none were dangerously injured. The billiard saloon was a mass of ruins, but no one was killed in it, and the escape of so many, who were exposed to the force of the shock, is astonishing. The light yellow smoke ascended to an immense height into the air; the smell of gas was perceptible to the city front; the bodies were all torn and mutilated by splinters, but not burned and but slightly blackened. The effect produced was not entirely akin to that of an explosion of gunpowder or steam. It resembled more that of a stroke of lightning. The flags in the City Hall are half-mast and the whole city seems in mourning.

THE STEAMER LABOUCHERE.

The steamer Labouchere, belonging to the Hudson Bay Co., plying between this port and Victoria, left here at 4, p. m., on Saturday, and was wrecked the same night off Point Reyes. The fog was very dense and the vessel got on the breakers before her commander discovered the danger. All the passengers, about 100 in number, were in bed when the vessel struck; they immediately run on deck; the engine was reversed and the vessel finally hauled off the rocks, when it was found that the water was coming in very fast. The pumps were started and the passengers put into boats and upon a raft which had been constructed and headed for the shore, which was some 10 miles distant, and which they finally reached, with the exception of two mulattoes, who were in an open boat, which capsized. These two, a passenger by the name of Wilcox, and a mulatto who was employed on the vessel as steward, were lost. As soon as the intelligence reached town, the Shubrick was sent to the rescue; she reports the Labouchere a total loss, and brought back several passengers, the remainder having been taken up by the Montana, and carried towards Oregon.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 15—There were forty-five deaths in San Francisco last week.

The Mechanics' Institute Association split last evening, and the factions held separate meetings.

Flags are out at half-mast all over the city to-day, and the morning papers are in mourning for the death of Lincoln.

The new banking house of the California Building and Loan Society was formally inaugurated yesterday.

Arrived—Schooner Flying Dart, fifteen days from Carmen Island; ship Peruvian, 162 days from New York.

Cleared—British steamer Labouchere, for Victoria; Orizaba, for Portland.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19—No Eastern news to-day.

The following gentlemen, who lost their lives by the disaster of Monday, were insured in the companies named below: Francis E. Webster and W. S. Haven, in the Mutual Life Insurance of New York for $5000 each; Garrett W. Bell in Manhattan Life Insurance of New York for $3000; Samuel Knight in the Charter Oak Life Insurance for $10,000. An inquest was commenced by Coroner Harris this afternoon on the body of Samuel Knight, who was killed by the recent explosion:

The steamship Continental, Capt. Windsor, which sailed from New York for this port, via Cape Horn, January 17th, is now about due. She will bring a number of female passengers who have been induced to this coast through the influence of Mr. Mercer of Washington Territory. The vessel is consigned to the California and Mexican S. S. Co., and will land its passengers at this port.

Arrived—Bark Live Yankee, five days from Columbia River; bark W. H. Gawley, ten days from Port Madison; schooner Eliza Walker, six days from Shoal Water Bay.

Cleared, 19th—Steamer Del Norte, Eureka.

Sailed, 18th—Bark Leonore, Puget Sound; bark Denmark, whaling voyage; bark Chas. Devans, Puget Sound; brig Franklin Adams, Victoria; brig Crimea, Puget Sound; bark Architect, Puget Sound.

The telegraph reports gold in New York yesterday at 127@127½, and sterling firm at previous quotations.

Legal Tenders dull at 79½@80.

MARKETS.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19th.—Candles—900 bxs Grant's sold from 2d hands at 23; and 100 do Emery at 29. Molasses—Hawaiian, is firm with sales in lots from wharf of 600 bbls. at 45 cts., usual terms. Rice—sales 750 mats Batavia, at an advance on the late auction prices. Sugar—yellow crushed, local refinery, 16 cents cash; the San Francisco and Pacific Refinery have fixed the price of the same grade from July the 1st to the end of the year at 16 cts. of raw sales of 600 hf bbls medium Kawaiian, 150 do good at about previous prices; high grades are scarce and very firm. Flour—we quote superfine (hf-sks.) per bbl. $5 to 5 75; extra hf sks, $575 to $6; qr sks, $6 to $6 55. Wheat—the market continues in favor of the purchaser, sales 6000 sks prime shipping grade at $1 65; 1000 do. choice bakers $1 70 and 1000 do. coast $1 55 per 100 lbs. Barley—remains dull at 85@90 per 100 lbs., for light feed to prime brewing with sales within the range. Oats—1 85 to $2 per 100 lbs for poor to prime. Potatoes—sales include 700 sks. Petaluma 97½@$1 02½ per 100 lbs.

Special Dispatch to the "Colonist."

CLAY RELEASED.

CONFEDERATION CARRIED IN NOVA SCOTIA.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 16—Clement C. Clay was released under the President's order this morning.

CHICAGO, April 18—General Meade and staff have gone to Eastport. It is supposed they have gone to look after the Fenians.

HALIFAX, April 18—A resolution in favor of the Confederation of the Provinces passed both Houses of the Nova Scotia Parliament. The New Brunswick Parliament have adjourned for a month to enable the new ministry to be formed and election to be held to fill vacancies caused by the resignation of members.

OMAHEE, April 18—The government commissioners have examined and accepted the second section of the Union Pacific railroad. The track is now being laid at the rate of a mile a day.

NEW YORK, April 18—Thirty ships left Liverpool for this country during March with 3648 cabin and 1048 steerage passengers.—Number of passengers for the quarter 24,277.

Ole Bull, the celebrated violinist, died at Quebec April 10th.

NEW YORK, April 18—The *Times* Washington special correspondent says the Postmaster General is satisfied of the feasibility and practicability of the proposed national telegraph company to connect lines over all the post routes. If the estimates are correct ordinary messages can be transmitted at the rate of one cent for three words.

ST. LOUIS, April 18—Brownsville advices say the Liberals captured a wagon train between Vera Cruz and Monterey, killing and capturing 250 French soldiers. One hundred and fifty wagons were in the train.

A RICH SILVER LEAD.—A lead of silver ore, three feet wide at the outcrop, has recently been discovered in the Bonaparte district, near the Thompson river, which promises to be one of the richest and most important discoveries yet made in this colony. A specimen of the ore was brought to town on Friday last, and assayed at the government assay office, which gave the following result: $877 per ton of silver, and 16 dwts. of gold—*Columbian.*

FROM YALE.—The steamer Lillooet, Capt. Fleming, came down from Yale on Friddy, afternoon, about 3 o'clock. She brought a small express and a few passengers. From Mr. Barnard, who came down by her, we learn that the Shuswap Lake is clear of ice, and navigation open. The steamer Marten is rapidly approaching completion. Her boilers have reached the steamboat landing, and the balance of her machinery is being pushed through with the utmost possible dispatch. Mr. McKay, of Kamloops, arrived at Yale on Thursday. He reports favorably of the roads and the mines. Two stages left Yale yesterday morning, crowded with passengers.—*Columbian.*

MINING AT BIG BEND—A private letter received here from some miners who went to Big Bend very early in the season, states that they had arrived at the diggings and had been taking out from $4 to $6 per day, while awaiting the opening of the weather so as to enable them to prospect. They spoke highly of the country.—*Post.*