

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, May 7, 1867.

English Dockyard Mismanagement.

Mr. C. Seely, Liberal member for Lincoln, who last session created so widespread an excitement throughout the United Kingdom by his exposure of the defects in the dockyard management, has again brought forward the question in Parliament, and this time has succeeded in enlisting the support of many of the most influential Liberal and Conservative members. Sir John Pakington (the First Lord of the Admiralty) admitted the truth of the charges of the member for Lincoln, but showed that the abuses commenced prior to his acceptance of office. The London Times, in commenting upon the extraordinary exposure of Mr. Seely, says that the members of the House of Commons do not believe in the Admiralty any more than the public do, and it is only the feeling that the dockyard system is a great mystery, which it will take much time and trouble to penetrate, and towards which little assistance will or can be given by those who are most conversant with it, that induces the House annually to submit without inquiry to the Naval Estimates. Last year Mr. Seely pointed out that iron ballast worth at least £178,000, had been used to pave the dockyard, it being deemed valueless by the management. This statement was ridiculed in the House and out of it; and poor Mr. Seely, being unmercifully "chaffed," had rather an unpleasant time of it for the remainder of the session. It turns out now that "Seely's pigs," as they are called, have all the value which he attributed to them. Sir John Pakington admits that at the time he regarded the statement as visionary, but Mr. Seely came to the Admiralty, accompanied by the members for Stockport and Oldham; and the latter told the First Lord, who thought they were "chaffing" him, that "he would pave the yards with angit he liked to name, and give him £100,000 for the ballast." It is now admitted that this was not an exaggerated offer, and Sir John Pakington declares he is about to take means to dispose of the iron for its real value. Mr. Seely repeats his statements concerning the scandalous cost of repairing ships and boats, and he is not refuted. Mr. Seely's speech, however, became of less importance on account of the very completeness of his victory. In his reply to Mr. Seely, Sir John Pakington proposes to appoint a Superintendent of Dockyard Accounts, but we doubt whether the gain to the nation will be great, unless the superintendent himself be superintended. Surely it has been somebody's duty all these years to see that an article which costs 14s. 2d. at one dockyard does not cost £1 11s. at another, and if the duty has been hitherto neglected, what reason is there to hope that somebody else with a new title will perform it any better now? An able man at the head of the department, with authority to control, to dismiss, and to punish, would reform the dock yards more quickly and efficiently than the most elaborate official system. The Daily Telegraph, in an able leader on the subject, says that the "promised further simplification and precision in the accounts point in the right direction; yet enough of the old leaves remains in the official mind, and there is still such a clinging to old practices, as to justify the watchfulness of the public eye, and the close inquiries of disinterested men. 'Where there is room for reform,' Sir John exclaims, 'let us have reform.' The answer is, that there is abundance of room for reform in a department which spends so much, which has charge of the instrument essential to the maintenance of our existence as a great political and commercial nation, and which, more than any other, holds in its hand the national safety as well as the national honor. The right honorable pupil at the head of the Admiralty declares his willingness to co-operate; and as he is no doubt sin-

cere in that declaration, he will meet, if he goes on, with hearty aid on all sides. For this is no party question; we cannot afford to have faction fights over the navy of England; and viewing the matter in this light, we hope that in future Sir John Pakington will render an ungrudging welcome to all who give him assistance." The London Standard is equally energetic in its call for a reform in this respect, and says that it may be safely asserted that no Reform will satisfy the country which leaves untouched the present constitution of the Board of Admiralty. It is vain to look for a better efficiency in this department of the public service if there is not a more direct control, and it is equally useless to expect that we can have direct control without direct responsibility. It is not in the power of any Minister, be he however energetic or capable to do his duty properly, when the credit of the good which he does is liable to be claimed by the board, and the burden of his blunders may be imposed upon the board. The Reform must go deeper than the mere re-arrangement of the duties of the comptrollers, and whether Mr Seely is capable or not of playing Hercules to this stable of Augeas, he is equally entitled to credit for his untiring zeal and perseverance.

A Peace Congress.

The news received last evening is of a more pacific character than that of previous dates, Prussia and France having consented to a proposition of Queen Victoria to submit their differences to a Congress of the Great Powers that will be convened at London some time during the present month. The misunderstanding between the French and Germans grows out of an offer by Napoleon for the purchase of the Duchy of Luxemburg. The proposition was acceded to, and the transfer about to be made, when Bismarck stepped in and forbade the sale. France at once prepared for war, and the example was followed by Prussia. The change in the policy of the latter power is attributed by a correspondent to the resignation of Bismarck and the appointment of a less warlike Premier. It is to be hoped that the Congress will settle the matter in dispute and prevent a sanguinary conflict taking place, although we cannot believe that Napoleon will rest satisfied with any decision that will declare he has no right to buy what another is willing to sell, and what he is quite prepared to pay for.

Wednesday, May 1st.

AUSTRALIA.—Telegrams confirmatory of the first report as to the extent of the rush from Hokitika to the River Haast have been received, but there is as yet no information as to the value of the prospects which have led to this new movement of the diggers to the district southward of Bruce Bay. It does not appear whether the discovery of gold has been confined to the beaches or has extended into those parts of the country which were visited by Mr Vincent Pyke, and the several prospecting parties who subsequently proceeded to the West coast from Lake Wankaka. It has been well known, for several months, that from the Haast River to Jackson's Bay the beach has been auriferous, as all the West coast beaches are, more or less; but the probability is that the rush has been caused by the discovery of some better ground in the strip of heavily timbered country which fringes the shore, and which generally covers a line of beach much older than that upon which the sea now breaks.

CURIOUS ROBBERY.—The removal of two cases of bullion, valued at upwards of £2000, belonging to Baron Rothschild, from the forehold of the Waterloo steamer, while lying in the Thames, off the Tower, London, is unexplained. From the description of the missing cases which has been put in circulation it appears they were about eighteen inches long by fourteen inches in depth and width, and formed of hard knotted fir wood, bound with iron at both ends, and nailed with long headed nails. Each of them contained 300 pounds in silver bars, one marked R 58, and the other R 64. There was no direction on either of them. The chief mate of the Waterloo, who gave Messrs Rothschild's clerk a receipt for the twelve cases put on board, is sure he saw them raised by the steamer's crane from the lugger boat alongside and immediately lowered into the hold, and saw them piled in two near the bulkhead, and counted them, in order to fully satisfy himself that there were twelve cases.

BANK HOLIDAY.—The banks will close at one o'clock to-day to allow their employees a half-holiday.

DEPARTURE OF THE CALIFORNIA.—The mail steamer swung off from the wharf yesterday at 12 1/2 o'clock. She carried away about 40 tons of goods and 60 passengers. A large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled on the wharf to say good bye to departing friends, and as the steamer shoved off, cheers and tapers rent the air. The day was one of the most lovely of the season and, should the weather remain fair, the good ship will have a pleasant and rapid run to the Bay City. Among the passengers on board were Hon Alexander Watson, wife and children, Mrs Cochran and family, R. R. Haines of the State Telegraph Company, Mrs Haines and child, Henry Rushton, Bank of British Columbia, and Mrs Rushton, Mr A. Mayer of Nanaimo and family, Chief Engineer Keenan, Mrs Shane and Mr Gillson.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE, Prime Minister of Bavaria, has formally announced to the Chambers that the King's Government, in the event of any attack being made on Germany, will place its army at the disposal of Prussia. When subsequently pressed to be more definite, he added that he should consider an "Austrian war on Prussia a war by foreigners on Germany. This declaration ends the last chance of a Southern Confederacy, and immensely improves the prospect of a union of all Germany as one State. It, indeed, almost compels Hesse, Wurtemberg, and Baden to make a similar declaration.

STOWAWAYS.—Two young gentlemen who wished to go to California at anybody else's expense but their own, were discovered when the ship got into the outer harbor and ordered ashore. They protested that they had no money, but after they had been lowered over the ship's side into the boat held out their passage money and begged like cripples to be taken on board. The captain, however, "could not see it," and they were set ashore near Esquimalt, and compelled to foot a weary two miles back to town.

AN IDEA IN BUTTONS.—Among the new inventions is a button which is fastened to the cloth without thread. It consists solely of a button with a wire to be inserted into cloth like a corkscrew, and then pressed down flat, so as to form a ring to hold the button in its place. As this invention will enable men to keep the buttons on their shirts, it is calculated to do away with wives altogether.

RED RIVER.—We learn from the Portage of the death of James Sinclair, the Hudson Bay Company's last Master at that place. It appears that Mr. Sinclair was on a trip between the Portage and Beaver Creek, and died on the way. His companions are said to have placed the body on a stage to preserve it from wolves till it could be sent for. The too free use of liquor is said to have been the cause.—Nor'wester.

FLOCK AFTER FLOCK of wild geese passed over the city last evening, shortly before sundown, bound for their summer feeding places around the great lakes in the Cariboo District. The cackling of the feathered visitors was heard for many miles, and their number must have been several thousand.

THE REPORT in circulation last evening that the California had gone into Esquimalt in a leaky condition, arose from the fact of the steamer stopping outside to enable the officers to search for stowaways. The California rounded Race Rocks at three o'clock this afternoon.

MAY DAY.—This will be a sort of half-holiday, which will be improved by boating parties up the Arm and other sources of amusement. The annual May Day Parade of the Fire Department has been omitted this year.

NORTHWEST COAST SURVEY.—The steamer Alexandra, Captain Pender, will sail to-day for the Northwest Coast of this Colony, to continue the survey, for which purpose she has been chartered by the Imperial Government.

THE ESQUIMALT TELEGRAPH.—Mr Wallace will commence immediately to construct the line of telegraph to Esquimalt. The wire to be used is four miles in length, and is part of the lot brought out by the Hudson Bay Company for the overland telegraph line.

FOR SITKA.—The steamer Cariboo is on the berth for Sitka. Should sufficient inducement offer, she will sail from the Hudson Bay Company's wharf on or about the 8th of May. Intending passengers should make early application to the Captain, on board.

LECTURE.—Alexander Yule, Esq., M. D., H. M. S. Shearwater, will deliver a lecture before the Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday, 8th proximo. Subject—"The Human Skin." The admission will be free.

A DAY IN ADVANCE.—Both the Eliza Anderson and New World are announced to sail at an early hour this morning for Puget Sound.

THE GOVERNOR.—Mr Birch and Mr Mansell were entertained at dinner by Sir James Douglas on Monday evening.

THE FIDELITER reached Portland yesterday morning after an unusually pleasant run from this port.

Summary Court.

[Before Chief Justice Neidham.]

MONDAY, April 29, 1867.

McGowan vs. Foster.—Suit for wages. The plaintiff consented to a nonsuit, in consequence of a defective subpoena.

McDole vs. Anderson.—To recover amount of promissory note for \$63. Defence that plaintiff had no power to sue. Judgment for plaintiff. Execution delayed to try a cross suit.

Stuart vs. Richard Copland.—Judgment for \$21, value of goods sold.

Robson vs. Mr. and Mrs Rothwell.—To recover \$33, value of goods sold. Summons amended to strike out Mrs. Rothwell's name; judgment against Rothwell for \$79.

Heisterman vs. Collingham.—To recover \$9, money paid for putting a grate into a house which it was alleged defendant had taken but which he afterwards declined to occupy. Nonsuit ordered with costs.

Pitwell vs. Bailey.—To recover \$124, value of goods supplied. Judgment for \$80.

The Road to Cariboo.

[FROM A TRAVELLING CORRESPONDENT.]

JUNOTON HOTEL, 13th April, 1867.

I have just got here after a tramp (on foot) one week from Yale. The road, with the exception of 6 or 7 miles below here has been extremely good for foot travel. This latter portion of the road is covered, more or less, with two feet of snow; but as the sun is very strong it is not unlikely that in a week more the dust will be flying where the snow now lies. The road, I hear, ahead (through the green timber) is in a very bad state, but will also be improving daily. The stage finds very tedious work ploughing through the mud and snow. I hear that Adam's mill at Soda Creek is producing flour equal to the best quality of Golden Gate.

"An Echo" from Leech River.

Messrs Editors:—It is high time that action should supply the place of words with reference to the Leech River Ditch and Flume. To all appearance the work, which ought to have been finished some six months ago, is still in its infancy, and unless something is done to wake up the dormant energies of some of the parties who have it in hand, it is more than probable that it will be at least another four months before the ditch will be completed; then that will be in the height of summer, when the ditch will not carry sufficient water to supply one single company, provided that the flume already laid from the dam to the mill is to be taken as a fair sample of what has yet to be laid.

Whether the blame lies with the Government or the contracting parties (some of whom have evinced throughout the whole affair a striking proof of the old adage, "penny wise and pound foolish") is best known to themselves. The dilly-dallying procrastinating spirit which has been shown by most parties concerned in the transaction is a thorough disgrace to any "enterprising country," especially such a young and enterprising (?) Colony as British Columbia. Another folly on the part of the Government is, allowing the contractors an extension of time. They cannot have taken into consideration that by so doing they were injuring the country, together with many who certainly deserved some little consideration for having spent so much time already waiting for the completion of the ditch; while on the other hand, they only benefited (?) one whose sole merit was that of having broken the contract he was in duty bound to have finished. Had the works been finished according to the original contract, it is highly probable that something would have been struck by this time, and Victoria found in a more flourishing condition than at present, there being plenty of miners in and round Victoria during the past winter, who would have been glad to have added their quota towards prospecting the country, but who have now gone elsewhere.

April 26th, 1867 BLUECOAT. [FROM THE N. W. "EXAMINER."]

Cariboo.

Mr George Williams arrived on Monday from the upper country, and reports that on HORSE-FLY CREEK Jas. Moore & Co., six men, were at work prospecting. They were putting in a wing-dam, and were setting sluices when he left. Had got good prospects. As high as two bits to the pan. On MARTEN CREEK, Which puts into the Horse-fly creek, Frankan & Co. were sinking a shaft. Had not got down to the bed rock. Were 42 feet down. Got small prospects two feet from the surface through a strata of gravel 10 feet thick. On BLACK CREEK, A tributary of Horse-fly creek, Ethershead & Co. were at work. They had run an open cut into the hill 100 feet, and sunk three shafts. In the first they struck the rim pitching into the hill. Got a very fair prospect. The second shaft they sunk still deeper and again found the rock pitching. The third shaft, on which they are now working, is down 42 feet and has not yet got down to the rock. This is the company that was sent out by the Government two years ago to prospect. Did not succeed in striking anything at the time, but were satisfied that the creek would pay. After they had exhausted government stores they returned to the wagon road to procure supplies on their own account, with the intention of keeping at work. During the winter they stayed out trapping, but had poor success. They intend to keep on working, having full confidence in finally succeeding.

Saskatchewan and Big Bend.

Saskatchewan.

The British Columbian has conveyed with A. G. Smith, who has just arrived from Fort Edmonton, on the headwaters of the Saskatchewan river. He went in by way of Vermillion Pass, from Blackfoot, and was 38 days in reaching Fort Edmonton. The country is a magnificent open one, dotted with lakes, intersected by streams, and everywhere covered with the most luxuriant grasses, also abounding in game of all kinds incident to that latitude, from the prairie chicken to the grizzly bear, and the shaggy buffalo. Winter set in on the 9th of October, and Smith and his party remained at the Fort, subsisting on fish and rabbits, and the kindness of Mr Christie, the H. B. Company's agent, at the Fort. The so-called gold mines are confined to the bars of the river, extending so far as is yet known, some 50 miles above and 50 miles below Edmonton. These mines can only be worked a few weeks in the spring and a few weeks in the fall of the year, and with rockers, the only machinery, yet in use, yield variously from 75 cents to \$2 50 a day to the bar. The gold is very fine, and quicksilver is used in collecting it. There were less than a dozen men, mostly halfbreeds, at work. A party of seven, including "Black Jack" and "Dancing Bill," two well known Caribooites, were organizing and fitting out at Edmonton with a view of prospecting the entire country through by Peace River to Cariboo. The Blackfoot Indians are very troublesome, and it is estimated that they have murdered about 300 miners in and about the Elk River and Fort Benton Passes, since adventurers have been attracted in that direction. They are a numerous and warlike tribe, and openly avow their determination to kill every white man who comes into their country. They wear scalp caps attached to their belts, one of which, a fine, curly one, was recognized as the late capillary covering of Michael Bryan, who was murdered by them last summer. Mr Christie spoke of the hostility of the savages, and declared that his life was not safe twenty miles from the fort. Smith and his party left the fort on the 26th of February, and with dog-sleds made thirty miles a day. Rolling down the north fork of the Columbia river we arrived at Wilson's Landing on the 1st of April and at French Creek on the 4th. The report concludes as follows:

Big Bend.

On French Creek we found the weather spring-like, and the snow melting rapidly. The one hundred or so miners who had spent the winter in the diggings were just commencing active operations. In many instances shafts had been sunk during the winter with satisfactory results, and the miners appeared to be satisfied and confident of the richness of their ground. On McCulloch's Creek, which I also visited, I found 25 men, all bustling for spring operations. In the Dart claim a shaft was sunk during the winter to a depth of 40 feet, and \$260 worth of beautiful coarse gold taken from the bottom. On the 7th a party of four men started out for Gold Creek, 25 miles to the south. One of the party had just returned and reported the discovery of five dollar diggings.

Leaving French Creek on the 9th, we crossed to Seymour on snowshoes, and found travelling difficult, the snow being soft. Met eight men on the way over to the Columbia River. Found everything as flat as a "slap-jack" at Seymour. Came in a canoe to Kamloops, the lake being open with the exception of a short portage. At Kamloops the winter had been very severe and many cattle had perished. Met 30 or 40 inward bound miners between Kamloops and Seymour. Travelled down from Kamloops to Savana's Ferry on the trail. Nothing of interest by the way.

The Late Fatal Accident to Officers and Ladies at Madras.

MADRAS, Dec. 26th, 1866.—A sad accident happened in Madras last Sabbath evening, Mr. Melver's two daughters along with Colonel Temple and Captain Hope (one of the Governor's aides-de-camp) and Mr. Bostock, the P. and O. Company's agent, were out in a little boat on the Adyar River about six o'clock, to have a row. After being out some time they thought of returning home, as it was getting dark, when somehow or other the boat struck on a sand bank. They all got out till the boat was righted, but had no sooner got into her again before she went down, bows foremost, and they were all in the water. Mr. Bostock, the only survivor, can scarcely tell how the sad catastrophe happened. The last thing he heard was Colonel Temple calling "Bostock, can you swim? On his replying he could, Temple and Hope set off, each supporting one of the ladies, and they were never afterwards seen alive. Bostock reached an island which was about twenty yards distant, and called out to his companions, but got no answer. Mr. Mayne who was in his garden heard the shouts, came out, and found Mr. Bostock in a dreadful state. They got a boat, and he was taken ashore, it being not quite dark. Colonel Temple's body was found about midnight; they say he looked as if asleep. Captain Hope was washed ashore next morning, and his features showed by their contortions that there had been a sore struggle for life. In one clenched hand was found a quantity of the young lady's hair whom he had endeavored to save. The same evening Miss Kate Melver's body was found. She had only arrived by the previous steamer from England, after completing her education. The elder sister's body was not recovered till Tuesday, when it was found in the surf. She was to have been married to Captain Hope on the 15th of next month. This melancholy occurrence has cast a great gloom over the community, and much sympathy is felt for the poor bereaved father, Mr. Melver. The Governor's dinner for Christmas Day, and all the balls, &c., have been put off. Lord and Lady Napier and the Commander-in-Chief attended the funeral of the poor girls, who were buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery at St. Thomas.

BASE BALL.—The Anglo-American Base Ball Club meet to-day, at 2 p. m., for practice at Beacon Hill.

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH

Europe.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 25.—A correspondent protests that the one published in New York is grossly in representing affairs in Turkey, and that Russia will early bring the question of dividing Turkey.

LONDON, April 25.—The Span minister has sent a note to the Emperor, in which he has expressed his regret that the right of nations to the tribunal in the Tornado case was expected.

The London Globe says that Spain has refused English demands for English satisfaction.

New York, April 27.—The special despatch says the Department has received by mail voluminous patches from our Ministers to France, England which show conclusively that the general European war can scarcely be Napoleon for a month past has been extensive military preparations.

feeling among the French is almost Napoleon's control. "Malakoff" was the Times under date of Paris, April 27. "The people are excited to such a point all serious business transactions have been arrested. No houses are sold or let leases. No large orders extend back than the Luxemburg question, caused by the anti-French spirit in Germany. This was understood French previous to the late war, and enraged at the failure of the Government to take timely action. The Opposition members of the French Chamber are busy at the position of France and while to fight their way out, they are at the time organizing for revolution. The republic could fight Europe come

Mexico.—Success of the Liberator.

New York, April 28.—By way of advice from Vera Cruz to the 13th have been received. Puebla was taken assault April 23 after two demands had been refused. General Diaz is severely wounded. The Imperialists killed and wounded. The Imperialists all their officers down to rank of lieutenant. The accounts vary in giving the number 28 to 100. Diaz immediately after the capture of Puebla sent 3,000 men and a battery to attack Vera Cruz, the surrender of which was demanded on the 17th. The Imperialists held a council on the 13th, and supposed would agree to capitulate. Some papers say that Maximilian and the peralists attempted to escape from Vera Cruz on the 16th, but were driven back.

Eastern States.

The Tribune's special says the Government has replied to the last communication from England on the question of the Alabama claims. Adams was instructed to specifically decline the acceptance of the position. This leaves the matter where it stood. There is no proposition pending either side. The same authority denies report that negotiations have been started for the purchase of the British Possessions on the Pacific, and this may be considered in connection with the Alabama claims.

St. Louis, April 25.—The Missouri river two feet higher than ever known before. At Omaha the damage from the overflow of the Missouri, horses, bays, stock and buildings are carried down the stream. Union Pacific railroad was submerged for days, but is now running again. The boats are unable to ascend the river against rapid current.

Canada.

Quebec, April 28.—The ice bridge opened here is still firm—over fifty feet thick in some places. Portions of the country between here and Montreal are flooded.

Europe.

New York, April 29.—The Times correspondent says there seems now to be a feeling that some means will be found to reconcile conflicting pretensions. We now hear that Prussia is not as indispensible as she was to Napoleon for the sake of peace her rights in Luxemburg and acknowledge the full sovereignty of the King of Holland over the Grand Duchy; but we also hear, on better authority, that Prussia will not on any terms with-