

The Weekly British Columbia AND CHRONICLE. Saturday, September 26, 1868

The Mining Laws.

Those who are engaged in mining operations in the Colony, are naturally somewhat desirous of knowing what is intended to be done for them by the Legislature during its next sitting. The government have avowed their intention of bringing in a measure to regulate the mining laws, which shall be somewhat more liberal and comprehensive in its operations than the present ordinance. It is most desirable that the mining interest of the Colony should be treated with liberality; the greatest encouragement should be given to adventurers desirous of taking up land for mining purposes, so always, that they are not allowed to hold mining claims for the purpose of speculation, without bringing them into practical operation within a reasonable time. To the practical miner all licence may be safely extended, and to mining companies which are organized in good faith for working claims, the same rule applies; a check may safely be put upon the operations of speculative companies, originated by stock jobbers for the purpose of trafficking in shares, such companies do not in any way assist real mining enterprise, nor do they tend at all to develop the mineral resources of the Colony; but on the contrary they have rather an opposite tendency, and keep back the real energy and activity which, with fair assistance and encouragement, would make our coal and copper known all over the world. In preparing a bill for the improvement of our mining laws, it is to be hoped that the Executive will consult with the practical miners of the Colony, and learn from them something of the requirements of the mining interest. Those who are really interested in the mining laws, are only capable of giving the government some useful hints upon this subject, and it would be a great misfortune that useful and practical legislation upon this subject should be delayed for another year, for want of communication between the government and the miners; nothing can be easier than for the Executive to forward to those representing the principal mining interests of the Colony, a draft of the bill which they propose to introduce, the miners would then have an opportunity of suggesting such amendments as they desired, which could thus be discussed at leisure; whereas, if the miners have no opportunity of seeing and judging of the contents of the government measure, until it is before the Legislative Council, they will then be compelled to introduce their amendments without time for due consideration and discussion, or if the bill should be such an one as could not be amended to their satisfaction, they will, at that late hour, have no opportunity of framing a bill of their own, and the result would be hasty legislation, which would give satisfaction to none. We are led to believe, however, that the miners have made application in the proper quarter for a sight of the bill in preparation; if this be the case, there can be no doubt that their wishes and suggestions so far as they accord with the proper principles of legislation, will meet with due attention, and effect being given to such of their suggestions as are entitled to weight, the result will be apparent in the introduction of a measure, more calculated to give general satisfaction than could be possible, were the bill brought in without previous consultation or consideration.

Saturday, Sept 19

Two days yesterday, considering the dullness of the season, and the indifferent weather, we are experiencing, of Mr. McQueen's at Juniors, Rhodes & Co's, passed off with much spirit, most of our spectators were present to take a bargain if possible. The goods offered, though the balances of different assortments, embraced some choice articles, while others, of course, were necessarily inferior. Upon the whole, the prices realized exceeded the expectation of both importer and auctioneer, of all sorts of editorial stuff, and had not only some valuable articles, but a few of the most desirable.

THE WRECK OF THE SUWANEE.—The Nanaimo Packet, Stevens Master, returned on Thursday from the Suwanee wreck. From the "Old Curiosity Shop," that Dickson, Campbell & Co's. what presented yesterday morning, after a partial landing of the goods, the speculation may be considered a good one. Butter, pork, beef, vinegar, rope, copper pipes and copper tubes, are only a portion of the articles of value recovered and brought down. It is the opinion of men, who are good judges in such matters, that from \$3000 to \$5000 at least, will be cleared by the operation. The Suwanee lay in the same condition as last reported, when the Nanaimo Packet left; and it is said, that much valuable machinery could still be saved. Everything in the shape of dry goods, preserves and light edibles, &c., have been secured by the Indians.

GOLDSTREAM.—Mr. Charles Ash, of Goldstream, had a valuable double-barrel rifle and some clothing stolen from his house on Wednesday morning, by Indians, several of whom have been around since their expatriation from Victoria. Only one little effect of the small-pox, Neighbors would do Mr. Ash a favor, if by chance, they could give him such information as would lead to the conviction of the person or persons who stole the missing articles. Game is plentiful in the Goldstream district. The fire in that section of country are nearly extinguished.

BIG BIRD.—The largest conger eel ever seen was lately caught near Wexford, Ireland. This enormous creature was over fourteen feet long and its circumference exceeded four feet. The mane on his back resembled strong horse hair, and stood four inches high. When caught in the net his struggles are stated to have been tremendous.

AN ENGLISH PAPER publishes a curious list of the largest capitalists known to exist in the world. The first is an American manufacturer who has an income of ten millions; the second a Russian boyard; and the third an Englishman possessing immense territories in the East Indies. The Rothschilds only occupy number eleven on the list.

NEW STORE.—A new clothing store has been opened and added this week, on Government street, by Messrs Adams and Beaven, to that of the pioneer hat store, corner of Government and Trades streets, as will be seen by advertisement.

FROM RECENT EXPERIMENTS made in France it is proved that hares can be treated with success as domestic animals, like cats and dogs. Crosses between the rabbit and hare produce among themselves, with almost the same fecundity as the female rabbit.

THE NEXT DIRECTOR STEAMER.—A telegram has been received from San Francisco, stating that the Del Norte would leave for this port direct on yesterday. She will afterwards go to Port Townsend and as far north as Fort Wrangel, but not to Sitka.

BURGLARY.—Early yesterday morning some person made an attempt to enter the grocery store of Mr. Gosnell, on the corner of Douglas and Cormorant streets, by breaking the shutters. Nothing was stolen, as the noise awoke the family, and the thief decamped.

PROFESSOR OF THE "DEMOCRATS."—Mr. Shakespeare has succeeded in photographing the group in Piper's candy shop. He has orders on hand which will eclipse even those of the original group.

THE TALKATIVE.—The British Columbia line is still down, and we are unable to give the remainder of the proceedings of the Yale Convention in to-day's issue.

SIMULACRA.—At the late contents in the shooting of the Volunteer force at Wimbledon, it is said, that is every case, men with grey eyes made the best hits.

THE WINTER.—The cold, low, thick foggy weather so unusual at this time of the year continues, and exerts a most pernicious effect upon all branches of business.

REMOVED.—The American garrison at San Juan Island is to be removed to Fort Wrangel, by the Del Norte, has been reported.

ANOTHER FROM THE AUTHOR OF FREE TRADE.—The author of the letter published in your issue of Tuesday last, I do not feel disposed to satisfy it first, because my name would perhaps rather detract from; than add to its interest; second, because it is unnecessary to do so; third, because my desire is that the citizens of Victoria, I may say, my fellow citizens, should think for themselves, and not be carried away or captivated by the tremendously loud-voiced of those who have the last word in medicine for sale, viz. Confederation. If the dose to be swallowed and the wanted remedy be found injurious, there is no antidote. Having once entered the Confederation there is no escape from it, however many evils may accrue therefrom; but the sellers may rejoice, and say, "I have done my duty."

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revel in the proceeds of the sale, and laugh at and deride the tortures of their victims. To avoid such a result, I ask people to think, to examine for themselves; not to imagine, but to judge from good and proper data; to look at the Act and the Tariff of the Dominion; to study the rebellious attitude of Nova Scotia, the geography of the country, and all matters pertaining to the Dominion. I also ask them to judge of the benefits (and evils also if there be any) likely to accrue from Free Trade in Vancouver Island both with and without Confederation, and to use their best endeavours to arrive at a correct conclusion; but by all means not to allow themselves to be drawn into sanctioning any commencement of negotiation until their minds shall have been thoroughly satisfied that they will themselves be benefited, and not the sellers and purchasers of this Colony only. I must say one word for the officials—take the part of the under dog in the fight; in spite of the probability of being accused of being one myself, or of being entrapured with the Civil list. As an Englishman, I love fair play and a fair stand up fight; but detest the cowardice of perpetually and constantly harassing those who, not unable, but disallowed to defend themselves, must needs bear in silence their ever-lasting tortures—it is cruelty and not fair play. Yet where would the sellers of the Colony stand if they did not garish their nostrum with this brutal and debasing, but not the less to many and themselves, relished and enticing covering? If any one will turn to the newspapers published during the first session of the Council, he will find that, when the subject of the Civil list was brought forward the official members did not vote; but actually quitted the council chambers and left the decision to the non-official members. A change in the Civil list was agreed upon and transmitted to the Governor, who very soon afterwards sent down an Ordinance to repeal the Ordinances relating to the Civil list; this Ordinance was not passed by the non-official members although they had full opportunity of doing so. Part of the singularity of the matter is, that the member for New Westminster, Mr. Robson, editor of the Colonist, and the member for Yale, Mr. Bernard, the mail contractor, pleaded hard and strong that the Governor's salary should not be altered—that the saving of the sum of the altered list would not of itself make any difference in the total! Thus ended the first session—the Capital still remained at New Westminster, and the contract for carrying the mails to Cariboo had not yet been made. During the late session I find the same bill was again introduced, the official members for the most part being absent, but it was rejected after its first reading. Upon this occasion, the President is reported to have said, that he regretted the action of the Council in the matter, and had, he a casting vote, he would have given it in favor of the bill. So much then for the officials, voting their own salaries. Mr. Bernard and Mr. Robson, are now great agitators for Confederation and Re-attachment—the Capital has left New Westminster, Bernard has the contract. It must be within the memory of most of the people of Victoria, that the duties upon the goods in store at the time of the Union, were taken off, those goods being admitted into British Columbia without charge, chiefly with the assistance of the official vote! The various resolutions relating to the removal of the Capital to Victoria, were carried with the aid of the official members. Had those resolutions not been carried, would Victoria now have been the seat of Government? The bill sent out by the Home Government, purporting to keep two Supreme Courts, was rejected by means of the official vote, in fact, in looking through the journals now published, it will be found that, in no instance can all the official members be found on one side and the non-official on the other. One would imagine from the above, that the officials hardly deserve the abuse so liberally heaped upon them; but the necessities of the Confederation quack required it, in order to puff their own selfish views. One would suppose, that Victorians, at least, would have shown some semblance of gratitude towards those who risked so much themselves, assisted the inhabitants of this city so greatly; but no, on the contrary, the greater the abuse, probably the old edge applies. "If you wish to make a man an enemy, put him under a great obligation to you." But do the people abuse, or is it the war cry? It is needless to enlarge more upon this matter, sufficient has been said to show that the officials are not the monsters people would be led to believe, or the members of the Council the most virtuous of men—the devil is not so bad as he is painted. I would in conclusion observe that the people of Victoria should cease continually to cry, "stinking fish." If there be an evil in the city, whether domestic or otherwise, that evil is, unalterably, paraded, until nothing but that evil is seen, felt or heard—in fact, Victoria is made a very pesthouse, a place that everyone should avoid, and this the way to promote the prosperity of the city of the country. Is this the way any statesman does his duty? Let anyone converse with those who come from Oregon and other places, and

side a space in Victoria, and he will soon be convinced that Victorians themselves are very much the cause of a great loss of business and profit to themselves. How many of those visitors were driven away? Depend upon it we ourselves have to mend our ways. What good we have, and we have plenty, let us exhibit as publicly as possible. The Colony is full of advantages, but if the advantages be constantly and diligently exhibited covered over by a pall of evil by our own hand, how can we expect those advantages to be seen? Victoria must indeed possess wonderful natural advantages, or a charmed life, otherwise, ere this, she would have been destroyed by her own citizens.

P. S.—I have seen your able editorial of to-day, but have not time to make any reply at present. I do not wish to monopolize your paper, but would like to bear the opinions of the mercantile and working classes, instead of listening to my own.

The New Dominion.

By late papers received we find that some of the principal topics treated of are the appointment of Mr. Howland to the Lieutenant Governorship of Ontario, and the state of public feeling in Nova Scotia. Mr. Howland appears, after some delay has been installed, in his office with the usual ceremonies, but the affair, according to the Globe was stale and flat. Much attention is being paid to the quarrel between Nova Scotia, from which a good annual revenue is anticipated. A statement in the Blue Book compiled from a report of Dr. S. H. Hunt, says they extend from Cape Sable, to Cape Canseau, and comprise altogether some thousands of square miles. The Globe appears to rely on Mr. Waddington's description of the Colonial Office in London, and quotes largely from his letters which were published some weeks since in our columns. In an able and comprehensive letter from Mr. Tilley, which has defied the criticism of the Canadian press it is proved that New Brunswick has done well by Confederation; an argument to show that Nova Scotia would also benefit under the same system. An Irish lady, born in Tyrone county, Ireland, Mrs. Mary Orr, died in Canada on 9th July, at the remarkable age of 105 years, having retained her powers of body and mind in a wonderful degree almost to the last. The Toronto Globe speaks in a flattering manner of the emigration from Canada to the Red River Settlements, but condemns the mismanagement of the Hudson Bay Company. The remains of the two young men, according to the Buffalo Courier, who went to Navy Island on Sunday the 19th July, and on their return, were carried over the great Niagara Falls in the darkness of night had not been found; fragments of their bodies were found below the Falls two days afterwards, their horrible fate is regarded as certain. The crops generally throughout the country are excellent, as in other parts of the continent, the season has been intensely hot, tracts of valuable timber have been destroyed by the forest fire.

ANTI-UNIONISTS—SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

The Hon Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir G. E. Cartier and William McDougall are to arrive here to-day. Their mission is to placate the anti-Unionists of Nova Scotia. It is made good that they will meet there, but they will not hold out firmly for repeal of the spirit of the public press has been intensely bitter, even suggesting the "mobbing" of the Canadian ministers. The Hon Joseph Howe publishes in this morning's papers a very unpropitious letter. He repeats the sentiments of the anti press, and alludes to the "handsome manner" in which the Nova Scotia members were treated in Canada, although hostile to the Canadian Government, and policy. If Nova Scotians have lost their constitution they should at least preserve their manners. England has thrown upon the Canadian government the responsibility of a great controversy, and the Nova Scotians are bound to give a fair hearing to the remedial measures which the Government may have to propose. Its delegates must be accorded courteous treatment, for the anti-press are not so strong that they can afford to outrage the public sentiments of the whole world by a reckless disregard of the usages of civilized diplomacy. This letter has created a great sensation among the Confederates, and Howe is bitterly upbraided as a traitor. The latter, they say, is the first step of his political recresancy. The more reasonable continued its tone and spirit.

DE TRIPPER TO RETURN FROM THE CANALS.

Private advices from a very high official at Halifax received to-day are to the effect that De Tripper will retire from the Cabinet to practice his profession, and that Howe will be offered and will accept a seat in the Dominion Council. This is trustworthy. The Montreal Fair Club races will take place at Longueuil on the 19th and 20th. The Montreal Lacrosse Club of Troy leave for home to-day, having been badly beaten in every match.

PILOTS HAVE POSITIONED TRINITY HOUSE.

At the present juncture these remarks are applicable to our own Colony. The Rev. Mr. White of Nanaimo is expected to arrive by the steamer Sir James Douglas, this evening, to officiate in the Wesleyan Church on Sunday at the usual hour.

WHELAN CONVICTED.

OTAWA, Sept. 19. A crowd outside the court, very few were on being nervous. The jury found Whelan guilty. The prisoner made a long address which he emphatically asserted his entire innocence. He denied having committed the Fenians, and was condemned because Catholic and that deliberately committed. He was going on treatment of Irish he was interrupted who pointed out the case elsewhere men and all other alike before the grounds for any cautioning any exploring him to His Lordship sentenced on Thursday.

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in Canada and requiring a deposit as guarantee to insurers, the following American companies have deposited the necessary guarantees with the Minister of Finance: Home of New Haven, Conn., United States five-twenties to the amount of \$705,000. Etina, of Hartford, Conn., \$50,000 in stock of Canadian banks. An insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., not named, \$130,500 in five-twenties. Phoenix Mutual Life of Hartford, Conn., \$70,000 in five-twenties. Connecticut Mutual Life of Hartford, Conn., \$140,000 in five-twenties. Travellers Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., \$140,000 in five-twenties. Etina Life, of Hartford, Conn., \$140,000 in five-twenties. The Railway Passengers Insurance Company have closed their agencies in Canada, as their Canadian business was not such as to be worth depositing the necessary guarantee of \$100,000 in gold.

CONFEDERATION.

We publish the following article taken from the Ottawa Times of July 24th, called forth from our report of the formation of the British Columbia Confederate League: "Every succeeding arrival from British Columbia brings evidence of the anxiety of our fellow-colonists of the Province, for an early admission into the Canadian Union. On the mainland, as well as in Vancouver Island, the desire for Union appears to be the dominant political idea of the time. The press and the public are alike imbued with the determination to agitate the question until it shall have reached a practical solution. The British Columbians may depend upon it that the feeling in Canada is very warmly in favor of their admission into the Union at the earliest possible moment. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the Dominion of Canada is destined to shield one united people, administer their public matters of general concern in common, and protect each Colony or Province in the management of its own political affairs. The sooner the geographical limits of the Dominion reach their ultimate extension, the better will its statesmen be able to frame a general system of internal improvements calculated to serve the interests of the whole, and even though the immediate admission of British Columbia might entail some temporary inconvenience upon the people of that Colony, and a slight additional burden on those of the Canada of to-day, it would be wisdom in both peoples to make the sacrifice rather than risk delay in the completion of the Union."

The Government of the Dominion, we are confident, is ready to receive British Columbia into the Union on equitable terms, and it but remains for the people of that Colony to agitate the question, and make their determination to join the Dominion, felt by the local and Imperial authorities. In order that the day may be hastened when the whole of British North America will, virtually, be brought under one general Government, we say virtually, because, in fact, the flight, little island, and Newfoundland on the Atlantic side, may bring their isolation for a while; but even if they do so long as they remain British, they will be no signs of weakness or embarrassment, and nobody on the mainland supposes that their accession would be a source of pecuniary or material advantage to the rest of the Dominion. As they are not, in the ordinary sense, a geographical necessity, we presume there will be but little anxiety for their admission beyond the general desire for the completion and symmetry of the Confederation, and the fulfillment of the hope indulged in alike by patriots at home and in this country, that the whole of the British possessions in North America may be linked together under one general Government, administered under the British Crown. Apart from the fulfilment of this expectation the acquisition of the two Atlantic islands promises little or nothing to the Dominion; but without British Columbia and the intervening North-west territory, the Canada created by the British North American Act would never be fully realized, nor capable of fulfilling its mission of administering the Government of the British possessions on this continent, and building a new highway for British trade between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. While, therefore, we are unconcerned at the manifestation of indifference to Union by Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland on the Atlantic side, we are exceedingly gratified to find that British Columbia proper, and Vancouver Island, are fully alive to the importance of joining the Confederation. We have already chronicled the celebration of "Dominion Day" in Cariboo, and we are glad by a copy of the British Colonist, published at Victoria, Vancouver Island, that a "Confederation League" has been formed for the purpose of carrying on a systematic agitation to secure the admission of the Colony into the Union. The following is from the Colonist of May 22nd: "Report already made to the Legislature of a New Brunswick paper recently received, we find the following from the Duke of Buckingham in a dispatch to the Governor-General of the Dominion, in reply to a declaration of the alleged grievances of the Anti-Union Assembly of Nova Scotia. His Grace says, 'that Confederation is the Policy of the Empire. The message is believed by Her Majesty's Government to be not merely conducive to the strength and welfare of the Province, but also important to the interests of the whole Empire.' The journal then goes on to remark: 'The Anti-Union Party in Nova Scotia will now perceive that, in opposing Union, they are opposing not only the desires of Canada or New Brunswick, or the ambitious designs of politicians, but the matured policy of the Imperial Government, the Imperial Parliament, and the British people. Their quarrel, so far as Union itself is concerned, now lies with Great Britain. Resistance to Dominion laws by the Dominion authorities is hostility to the Empire—and that is simply Rebellion.'

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