

# Carleton Place Herald.

VOL. XII.

CARLETON PLACE, C. W., APRIL 16, 1862.

No. 32.

## GOLD IN THE SASKATCHEWAN.

Red River Settlement, March 12, 1862.

In these days, when riches are accumulated in a shape the most romantic—when, through the agency of oil or gold, men suddenly find themselves opulent and famous—it is gratifying to us in this remote settlement to know that fortune has not out of us with a shilling. Our future now seems as bright as that of the Australian or the inhabitant of California or British Columbia a few years since. Long enough ago, the story that gold had been found in British Territory, on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, reached us. Within the past few months we have had repeated the proofs of the truth of the tale. Along the course of the Place and Clearwater rivers, which flow into the Hudson Bay, gold has frequently been found of late by the Hudson Bay Company's people, by others passing along, casually, and by those who have been prospecting in the neighborhood of the head waters of the Saskatchewan for nearly a year.

One of the latter class of discoverers, a Mr. Love, is at present in the Settlement, and has given glowing accounts of the gold mining prospects. He is quite certain that the diggings will pay well, and purposes going thither himself early in the ensuing spring. The accounts are corroborated by the Rev. Mr. Woolsey, the Methodist Missionary at Edmonton, who has himself seen the gold, and also by a Mr. Covey, one of Mr. Love's partners, who is there at present prospecting. This latter has discovered several paying mines on the Clearwater River, with indications of gold on other rivers, very similar to those on the Fraser. As he approached their source, the precious metal appeared in almost every instance in greater quantities. He did not present his resources to the source of the Clearwater, in consequence of running out of provisions; but writes to his partner quite confidently that the mining on that river will prove very rich. So much for the presence of the gold. The question remains—How can the mines be reached easiest, and with the least expenditure of outfit, &c. These are queries which many Canadians are, to my knowledge, anxious to have answered, and I propose supplying such information at present, merely premising that my statements may be relied on, as they are derived from the best sources.

The journey from Toronto to St. Paul, Minnesota, could be performed at the outside for \$20 to \$25, and might be made in a couple of days. From St. Paul to Georgetown, the only means of travel for strangers would be by the four horse coaches of the North Western Express Company, which run in connection with the Great Northern steamboat, the "International." The land travel would occupy five days; and, taking the steamboat at Georgetown, Fort Gary, Red River would be reached in two days more. This may be said to be the Half Way House; and here the main outfit should be left, and the rest of the party, including hotel bills by the way, would be about \$35. Landed here, the passenger may at once prepare for an overland journey to the mountains of about fifty-three days. And, in the first place, the inquiry suggests itself—How are we to get there?—what should we take? To hire a horse and driver would be a very expensive operation—one of the last that I remember having received £100 for his services in that capacity. To hire an Indian would be folly, for in nine out of ten cases he would desert when he came to the first Company's post. If the Indians happened to be honest, or comestible, one might be hired to go with a party to the first post, Beaver Creek. There another might be procured as guide to the Touchwood Hills—another to Carleton—another to Fort Pitt, and so on to Edmonton and the Rocky Mountain House. But the plan is not at all feasible; and I would not recommend it. In such a journey one half breed is worth half a dozen Indians. He is always fearless and self-possessed, and can travel alone over any tract of country over which he has been once. All the camping places, and every swamp and wood on the road, are familiar to him; he is acquainted with the Indian language, and speaks as well as an Indian. Small parties of reckless neck or nothing "long knives," as the Americans are termed, frequently traverse the country between the mountains and the gold mines of British Columbia; but from a non-acquaintance with the language and habits of the aborigines they have not unfrequently come to grief. At all events—supposing the best case—there is always an amount of anxiety and danger accompanying such ventures, which ought to be avoided if possible.

Now, any parties starting from Canada, and getting through to Red River by the first or second down trip of the boat, (by about the middle of May or beginning of June), could go through to the Mountains with one or other of two parties which will leave this settlement for the gold regions on the Saskatchewan about that period. Mr. Love will head one party, and Mr. George Fleet the other. In either party would be joined at the start—but at all events a party is certain to go from this early in the spring. With such a company, there would be no danger of annoyance from Indians or losing of road, or any other insurmountable difficulty. From this to Carleton, there is a broad, well marked cart road, not easily deviated from by careful travellers, who have a good idea of the direction in which they are going. I would strongly advise those intending to try this route—and it is on the whole an excellent one—to be here early in the season. Whether they are bound for the Saskatchewan or the Fraser, let them come along soon. The earlier they arrive here the more time they have to get an outfit cheaply. Each man ought to have one cart for provisions, tent, gun, ammunition, and say about £10 to £15 worth of provisions, and goods to barter for other provisions, by the way. It could be bought for £2. There is a considerable strong cart horse, which would cost £10 to £12. Any dry goods, powder, &c., he would need could be purchased here almost as reasonably as anywhere else. Tea might, perhaps, be brought hither to advantage. Those wishing to cross the Mountains would need to purchase pack saddles, but they might be made here cheaply. The whole outfit for a party going either across or to this side of the Mountains would not, I believe, exceed £20 or £25.

A supply of provisions, such as flour, pemmican, &c.—sufficient to last till the buffalo country was reached—could be carried. No great load of provisions could, however, be taken. The gun must be the main reliance for food for much of the way; and would not be at all a doubtful one, to good shots. From the Hudson Bay Com-

pany's folks much help could not be expected. Their forts are very often scantily enough provisioned—some of their *bourgeois* have now been glad enough to feast on a species of moss called *tripe de roche*, for weeks. Even though possessed of plenty, which they always are, they would not, I believe, be very hospitable. Their interests as fur-traders are injured by the opening up of the country, and they would be much more likely to throw obstacles in the path of explorers than to help them. Hence the adventurers must be self-reliant. On the whole, there would not be much apprehend, be any danger on the score of starvation.

To an outsider, I dare say, one of the main difficulties appears to be, the passage through a country which is the hunting ground of hostile Indian tribes. Here, too, I am happy to express my belief that fears are groundless. Mr. Clover, whom I have spoken of elsewhere in this letter—has written to his partner that the Blackfoot Indians—the most hostile and the only tribe from which trouble would be apprehended by people here—are not all hostile, but on the contrary favorable to the arrival among them of gold-seeking "pale faces." The Indians were very kind to Mr. Clover, and accompanied him to several places as guides. These declarations and acts of friendliness apart, I may say that no *voyageur* with a knowledge of the Indian tongue and habits is very apprehensive of the aborigines when travelling. Should the Indians therefore attempt to commit violence, the trader can easily frighten them. For example, see the Hudson Bay Company's employees. They are but a handful at each post in the midst of thousands of Indians. Yet the white man's superior tact and knowledge preserves him unharmed. The fact is, that the Indian is naturally of a very trustful, confiding disposition, and will not seek to harm those who have confidence in, or do not seem to be afraid of him. As Mr. George Fleet, who is intended to go gold-mining this spring, has well said—"If you see an Indian camp on a hill, and you are travelling, go straight to it. Do not seem to mistrust the Indians. Go in among them, and once there you are as safe as within the walls of Fort Gary—always, I may add, provided you can give a good account of yourself: for the Red men are as adverse to pimps or spies as were the ancients of old."

As to the time such a journey as this ought to take, I would say, the time between this and Carleton, making allowance for detentions of one kind or another along the road, would be some 35 days—to Fort Pitt, six days; to Edmonton six days; and the Rocky Mountain House, six days more. In connection with the last, the journey might not extend over 43 days. I am giving the outside figure.

Those who intend to cross the mountains would have to part with their carts here, and pack all their traps on their own and their horses' backs. Crossing would probably occupy about ten days. The rest of the travel would bring them to Fort Colville, from whence they would have beaten roads in all directions to the mines. I have been at much trouble to get these facts—and will, in conclusion, only repeat my assertion—that they are perfectly reliable.

## GOLD ON THE SASKATCHEWAN.

From the accounts forwarded to us by our Red River correspondent there is reason to believe that gold will be found to exist in workable quantities, in the tributaries of the Clearwater, and the head waters of the existence of gold on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains seems no longer to admit of doubt; the only question is in what quantities it will be found. This problem will find a solution in the course of next summer; and should the result be favourable the prospecting emigrants, whom Canada is furnishing, would find the gold fields of the eastern instead of the western side of the Rocky Mountains. In point of accessibility, the Saskatchewan gold fields would have a great advantage over those of British Columbia. The emigrants would reach the former in much less time than the latter. The distance to the head waters of the Clearwater would be first by a stagecoach, and then by a trail, and would be a great deal less than the distance to the gold mines of British Columbia; but from a non-acquaintance with the language and habits of the aborigines they have not unfrequently come to grief. At all events—supposing the best case—there is always an amount of anxiety and danger accompanying such ventures, which ought to be avoided if possible.

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## Further by the Hibernian.

The Hibernian brought 163 passengers. In the House of Commons, Mr. Gregory asked if the Government had been called to the capture of the British steamer *Labuan*, in Mexican waters, by a Federal Cruiser. Mr. Layard said that the Government's attention had been directed to the matter, and that Lord Lyons had been instructed to communicate with Mr. Seward on the subject. He was unable to state yet what course would be adopted, but Government had thought it right to order a vessel of war to be sent to the protection of British interests in Mexican waters.

The English journals criticize the commencement of the campaign in Virginia. The *Daily News* expresses McClellan's tactics; thinks the crisis approaching, and believes the Confederates, although retreating, have prepared a field for a great battle. The same journal rejoices that the adoption by the House of Lincoln's emancipation pro-posal as an immense step in favor of human rights.

The Times reiterates its belief that nothing can be made of Lincoln's proposition, but that it is an important step towards the principle of an insurrection between the North and South. The Times believes the real defence of the Confederates will be found in the vastness and desolation of their country; and argues that, if they are really in earnest, the North must look for bootless victories and exhausting conquests.

Mr. Peabody's unprecedented munificence formally consummated in correspondence, is now published, in which he places one hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling at the disposal of Mr. Adams, the American Minister at Lord Stanley, Sir Edmund Lyons, Messrs. Sampson and Morgan, as trustees, for ameliorating the condition and augmenting the comforts of the poor of London.

At the Annual meeting of the Galway Line, the Directors announced they were not prepared to negotiate with the Mexican Government, and intended formally to apply for a renewal of the subsidy, and expressed great confidence in its restoration.

Lord Palmerston is again suffering from gout.

The King of the Belgians is reported critically ill.

The rumors of Ministerial changes in France are authoritatively contradicted. There are rumors of Ministerial modifications at Turin. Various changes rumored, but nothing confirmed. Ministerial circular issued maintaining the rights of Italy to recognize; asserting that Rome should be the seat of the Government, and affirming that the settlement of the Venetian question, according to the wishes of Italy, is necessary for the general peace.

A grand banquet had been given Garibaldi at Milan. He and others made patriotic speeches indicative of approaching movements.

Austria had taken another step favorable to the freedom of the Press.

Prince Windischgratz and Count Nesselrode are dead.

The Spanish Government has ordered Gibraltar not to negotiate with the Mexicans till the troops shall have entered the city of Mexico.

A Federal corvette, 30 guns, name not mentioned, has arrived at Cadiz.

It is asserted that the Greek insurrection is not yet over.

LYNCHING SUMMARY.

The steamer *Sumpter* and *Turcorora* were still at Gibraltar.

Parliamentary proceedings on the 26th entirely devoid of interest.

The Times has a letter from Dr. Russell, dated London, 11th. He speaks of the passage of the army over Long Bridge was a magnificent spectacle, and a most imposing display of military power. Special eulogy is passed on the 9th Massachusetts as one of the finest regiments of the army.

Dr. Russell says, whatever may happen, McClellan can never lose the credit of having formed an army into an army, and of having instilled into them the principles of soldierlike discipline. The battle so many were looking forward to is indefinitely postponed, and there is no telling where it may be fought. Dr. Russell shows the difficulty of any considerable advance by the Federals owing to the barrenness of the country.

The Times in an editorial says that the time cannot be far distant when the South must either surrender their cotton and tobacco or burn them. If they give up their crops to the invaders we may consider they have given up; if they give them to the flames, the worst that can happen there will have been endured, and the task of conquest which never can be performed will have been commenced.

The Daily News, commenting on the abandonment by the Confederates of the important military base of Pensacola, observes that they gain much of immediate efficiency by the contraction of the area of defence, and will probably make a desperate stand either at Richmond or Norfolk, while it is very likely a great battle may decide the fate of the war.

Lord Palmerston continued to be confined in his room by the gout.

FRANCE.—It is reported that the Emperor does not intend to visit the Great Exhibition at London.

## THE REPORT OF THE MILITIA COMMISSION.

By special telegraph last night, received from our Quebec correspondent, we are enabled, this morning to lay before the readers of *The Leader* the most important feature of the Militia Commission Report for which the Attorney General moved yesterday.

The Commissioners recommend that the Militia Board consist of an Adjutant General, two deputies, a Paymaster, and a sufficient number of staff clerks. That the Commandant of the Force be requested to nominate officers of the regular service to inspect the Active Militia. In order to provide efficient for the defence of the province, a greater number of trained men are required than has been hitherto sanctioned, and they recommend the organization of an active force amounting to 80,000 men—all arms, with a reserve of the same number. They clearly point out that nearly this number of men would be insufficient without the co-operation of a strong body of regular troops, and a powerful force of gunboats on the lakes. They propose that the officers and men of the volunteer Militia corps in great cities, and active battalions of regular militia, to be raised in the rural districts—proportionate artillery and cavalry being distributed throughout the force. Infantry should in all cases, be organized in complete battalions and the people of each locality should be encouraged by the nature of the organization, to feel a personal interest and pride in their own battalions.

It is recommended that the Province be divided into such military districts as the Commander-in-Chief might from time to time direct, each district having a regimental division in order to facilitate the enrollment of militia and reinforcements, from the active force. Each regimental division to have a company of active militia, taken as nearly as practicable in equal proportions from the male population of each division, and to be divided into three companies. Each company of active militia, together with a corresponding reserve company, be taken from within the limits of a defined territorial division, the boundary of which shall be identical with that of the sedentary battalion division, or of a district portion of the militia. That each principle city in the Province, namely Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton and London, with such portions of the surrounding country as may, from time to time, be added to them by the Commander-in-Chief, constitute a military district, to be divided into regular militia, and reserve militia divisions. That they be allowed to furnish volunteers, their arms to be in proportion, as hereinafter detailed, in lieu of the active battalions. The regular Militia, in event of cities failing to furnish their full complement of volunteers shall, in part or in whole, be supplied by the reserve militia of the regular Militia, in such a manner as the Commander-in-Chief shall direct. That all officers of active or reserve corps, arrived at the following ages in each rank respectively, be placed on the retired list receiving honorary rank—field officers, under rank Colonel, full and half pay, and retired pay at 50. That a permanent staff be allowed, each city furnishing Volunteer Militia, consisting of one Adjutant and one Staff Sergeant and Major in each battalion. That a permanent staff be allowed each active battalion, the regular Militia consisting of one Adjutant and one Staff Sergeant and Major in each battalion. That a permanent staff be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief, who shall have the power of removing at pleasure any officer or non-commissioned officer of such staff. That the staff be appointed for three years only, at the termination of which period they shall be eligible for re-appointment, and shall be subject to the same regulations as the regular Militia. That the staff be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief, who shall have the power of removing at pleasure any officer or non-commissioned officer of such staff. That the staff be appointed for three years only, at the termination of which period they shall be eligible for re-appointment, and shall be subject to the same regulations as the regular Militia.

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## PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

Quebec, April 7.

The Speaker took the chair at 10 o'clock. A Bill to restrain Municipalities from issuing debentures beyond a certain amount was reported by Hon. Mr. Alexander from the committee without an amendment.

The report was concurred in, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Smith moved that an address be presented to Her Majesty in the following words:—"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty: 'MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN.—We the Legislative Council of the Province of Canada, approach your Majesty with renewed feelings of affection and devoted attachment to your person and Crown. 'The people of Canada have learned with universal grief, the sad intelligence that it has pleased the Divine Disposer of events to take unto himself the Prince Consort, the partner of your Majesty's joys and sorrows, the crown and sceptre of the Empire, and the father of that family through whom we trust, the beneficent rule now existing over the whole British Empire may be perpetuated. We desire to offer to your Majesty the expression of the deep sympathy with which your people in this Province regard your present affliction. Christian virtues and the high and noble qualities which adorned the character of the Prince Consort, while enhancing the first emotions of grief, must yet in their recollection comfort your Majesty, with the assured hope that his early removal has brought only increased happiness to him, although fraught with bitter grief to you, and profound sorrow to your subjects, whose love to your person makes them sharers in all those events which bring either joy or pain to your own heart. Your people in Canada pray Almighty God that it may please him to send you comfort and support in your present bereavement, and that in the held memory of your departed husband, in the love and devotion of your children, and in the affection of your whole people you may find some alleviation in your present great distress, and may be spared to watch over your Royal Family, and to continue the guardian of the destinies of the Empire.'"

The motion was adopted *unanimously*, and the address was ordered to be engrossed, signed by the Speaker on behalf of the House, and carried down to the other House, with a request for their concurrence with the pending concourse of the other House.

The Council adjourned during pleasure.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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