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sed in ordinary medicines, on account of
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such that in long standing and difficult
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also a surround reliable remedy in
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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 9. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1868 NO 13

WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY.
HIGGINS, LONG & CO.

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For Annum, in advance	$6 00
For Six Months	4 00
For Three Months	2 50
Per Week	0 25

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Sam'l Harris	Cowichan, do
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Barnard's Express	Quesnelle, B. C
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do do	Yanwhilie
do do	Rockford
do do	Barkerville
do do	Cameron town
L. P. Fisher	San Francisco
Hudson & McCarty	Clinton
F. Algar	11 Clement's Lane, London
G. Street	30 Cornhill, London

An ill-grounded fear seems to pervade the minds of some of our citizens that an effort is being made to rush the Colony into Confederation without due precaution being taken to conserve the public interests or to stipulate for terms of a liberal and beneficial character. This fear is shared by some good friends of the cause of Confederation, and there are not wanting the usual number of malcontents who avail themselves of the existence of this feeling to attempt to make capital against the movement. We are heartily in favor of Confederation—not because *any* change is desirable—but because we believe it, is a change that will immediately result beneficially to the country and the people. It is no difficult matter to point to Downing Street as the Mecca towards which we should turn to ask for blessings and favors; but Downing Street has never made a change in this Colony that has not proved for the worse. From the day on which two inefficient Governors were appointed and the Colonies practically separated, down to the period when they were again united, we have been asking Downing Street for bread and have invariably handed a stone. The interests [illegible] Confederation by the substitution of another. Thus it follows that we find ourselves a thousand times worse off with Union than we were without it. We do not say that it was wise to put ourselves into Mr. Cardwell's hands and ask him to mould us into any shape he pleased. In fact, we now know that the movement was an impolitic one. But "by-gones should be by-gones," and it is not by keeping alive the fires of resentment and raking up political blunders and sins that good can be accomplished in the present crisis. It is only by uniting in a final effort to work out our political regeneration that any favorable result can be brought about. It is not because this man or that man advocates a certain line of policy that it should be applauded or damned—it is not because a very grievous mistake was made upon one occasion that we are wrong in trying to rectify it—or that, because one change brought us degradation, discontent and misery, another change may not secure us liberty, happiness and prosperity. No man more than ourselves would deprecate haste and precipitancy in the present movement. Everything depends upon the exercise of due caution in arranging the preliminaries and in opening negotiations with the Dominion Government; but in the exercise of caution there is nothing to prevent the Union being brought to a speedy consummation. We have the strongest evidence before us that the local Government have taken no steps to lay the matter before the Government of the Confederation—that they have been negligent, perhaps criminally so, in not having carried out the wishes of the Legislative Council. We therefore ask every earnest man—every true lover of this Colony—whether he conscientiously believes there is any hope to be expected from that quarter? We take it all are agreed that Confederation is inevitable. Even the *News*, yesterday, says that Annexation is impossible, and "that the Canadians will gobble us up, quietly if they may, forcibly if they must," at their leisure. How important, then, is it that we should drop all side issues, petty local disputes and jealousies, and set ourselves firmly and earnestly to work in effecting our political regeneration. How much more sensible and honest would it be were the *News* and its writers to cease their opposition to the scheme at a time when favorable conditions are possible, than to insist upon throwing over the question till a time when we shall be gobbled up and gulped down without any conditions at all.

Monday, Feb 3.

From Nanaimo.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Capt. Clarke, arrived from Nanaimo and way ports on Saturday evening. Capt. Clarke, owing to the harbor of Comox being reported frozed across, did not proceed above Nanaimo, as was his intention to have done on leaving Victoria, but sent the mail on in a sloop. The Douglas brought down Capt. Franklyn and family, who have taken up their residence in this city. The weather continues severe at Nanaimo and the sleighing is excellent. On Friday night ice formed in the harbor to the thickness of an inch, and the Douglas in coming out the next morning had a portion of the yellow metal stripped from her bottom. At Cowichan the steamer managed to cut through ice and reach the wharf. The freight brought to this place consisted of 20 head of young stock and a small quantity of farm produce. The steamer Otter, for Sitka, sealed at Nanaimo on Friday, and sailed northward the same day.

Sudden Death on Board the H. B. Co's Steamer Otter.—On Thursday morning the steamer Otter, Captain Lewis, left this port for Sitka and way ports. Among her passengers was Capt. J. Lawson, an old employee of the Hudson Bay Co., who left here in appparent good health, but who in a few hours afterwards was a corpse. About two o'clock in the afternoon Capt. Lewis observed Lawson lying in his bunk. He shook him, and receiving no answer, supposed him to be asleep and passed on. Some time subsequently one of the hands of the vessel discovered Lawson lying in the bunk on his face, and upon turning him over discovered [illegible] of death from congestion of the brain, superinduced by excessive drinking. Lawson was aged about 45 years and was well known throughout the Colony.

Sailing of the Del Norte.—The California, Mexico & Oregon Steamship Co.'s steamer Del Norte went to sea at 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, having been detained four hours beyond the advertised time by the low stage of water. She carried away 57 passengers, 40 of whom were in the cabin, and 75 tons of freight. Among those on board were Prince Maximoff, late Governor of Alaska, Hon. A. Richards, late Solicitor-General of Canada; W. H. Oliver, Mrs. D. W. Higgins and two children, Mr and Mrs D. A. Edgar and two children, Mrs. Col. Dodge, from Alaska; R Stark, Misses J and L Pidwell, Mr Smeaton, E Grancini, Col. Reese, U S A; Col Truman, U S Postal Agent; G J Marsh, J S McMillan, J. Bulleo, M R Webb, Mr J. Murphy and daughter. The steamer, it is believed, will have a quick and pleasant run to San Francisco.

Geo. Wilson requests us to say that, so far as he and his backers are concerned, there has been no backing down from the proposed mill with Eden. Wilson says he is eager to meet his old antagonist in the field once more, and so confident is he of his ability to thrash his late opponent that he has $2,000 in gold to bet on himself. He says he means fight now and has meant it from the first, and intends to give Eden one more chance in which to "come to time" with his share of the stakes.

From Burrard Inlet.—The steamer Isabel arrived from the Inlet yesterday evening having in tow the British bark Mercara, which will sail to-day for a South American port with lumber and spars loaded at Moody & Co's mills. The ship Trabelgan, at Stamp's mills, will complete her cargo for Shanghae on Wednesday; and the ship Dorchester has commenced loading at the same mills for Coquimbo.

We are pleased to learn that a very liberal subscription for copies of Mr. Harnett's lectures, if published in pamphlet form, has been given these last few days. They will now appear in that shape, enlarged and improved in many ways, as soon as possible, and will no doubt have a good sale. Afterwards Mr H., we understand, goes for a week to Leech River, to see if he can find dirt for hydraulic washing.

Benefit of the Orphans of St. Ann's.—The benefit of the Orphans under the care of the Sisters of St. Ann will come off to-morrow evening at the Theatre under distinguished patronage. The Amateur Dramatic Association, with customary liberality, have consented to perform for the benefit of this most noble charity, and we have full confidence that the appeal made to the public on behalf of the needy little ones will not pass unheeded. The Box Office will be open to-day and to-morrow from 12 till 3, and those who are desirous of securing good seats will do well to book them early. For particulars we refer our readers to the advertisement in another column.

Breaking Away.—Capt. Pamphlet of the steam tug Isabel reports meeting in Burrard Inlet on Saturday night a vast field of drift ice, which almost blocked up the entrance to the Inlet, and rendered navigation extremely difficult. From this fact it is inferred that the ice in the Fraser has commenced to break away, and that navigation will be reopened in a few days.

Whisky Selling.—A man named Simon Duro, detected in the act of supplying a bottle of spirits to a Siwash, was convicted before Mr. Pemberton on Saturday and fined $100. Refusing to be supported at the Government expense for a few months, Duro paid his fine like a man and was set at liberty.

Among the passengers by the Del Norte on her last trip here was Hon. A. Richards. This gentleman was Solicitor General of Canada before the Union, and has come among us to permanently locate with his family, with which object in view he started eastward again on Saturday.

Arrival from San Francisco.—The ship Dublin, 800 tons, bound from San Francisco to load with coal, arrived in the outer harbor yesterday morning, and was towed to her destination last evening by the Isabel.

Changing Her Nationality.—The British schooner Gazelle has sailed for Port Madison, where it is the intention of her owners to rebuild and enter her as an American bottom.

The Fidelitor is in port awaiting the [illegible] of the [illegible]

[illegible] of 1500 tons burthen is coming up from San Francisco to load with coal at Nanaimo.

Fetiches continue to fall rapidly at San Francisco—a fortunate circumstance for our coal and lumber interests.

The steamer Constantine has been hauled up on Laing's ways for repairs.

A Suggestion.

Editor British Colonist:—With reference to the great meeting of the people on the 29th ult., concerning the Confederation of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada, upon which subject Mr. DeCosmos spoke at some length, and with much statistical information, and resulted in a majority of hands in favor of the scheme as proposed; might it not also be advisable that whilst this good and mighty effort is in progress, Mr. John Bull's suggestion, that as the British Government had acceded in previous cases to our wishes respecting our government, they might also do so to another application from the people praying for a less expensive government. A committee of intelligent men could be formed here to draw up a statistical account of our financial condition, to be enclosed in a most respectful, loyal, peaceful and prayerful memorial to the proper authorities in England, showing that however willing and loyal we are in submitting to the present taxation, the people have not the means to pay the demands made upon them for the expenses of our present form of government; and that as the whole white population of the colony does not consist of more than 9,000, a sum of $500,000 cannot be paid for the large salaries of the Governor, his staff and many other officials who cannot honestly earn their pay, owing to their being so little business for them to do. The aforesaid committee in their memorial could also submit the style of Governor wanted, the number and occupation of the officials required, together with the salaries the people could and would afford to pay them. Praying also to the Home Government for power to the Government to make the most liberal grants, terms, liberties and privileges to the brave and daring poor men who hew by the risk of their lives to develop the resources of the vast place and to the capitalists who assist them in their endeavors by the risk of their money. And that promptness and immediate attention (suspending until we can afford it the use of too much red tape or large envelopes) to their rights, desires and claims. The whole of the greatest part of this community would sign the memorial. By putting this proposition also into operation, if one is unsuccessful the other must be of service to this our depressed population, almost irrevocably immersed in the miseries of hopeless and inextricable bankruptcy but with the most honest strenuous and praiseworthy efforts to escape from it.

T. J. B.

The rivals Claims against the Russian Government.

The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* gives a letter from Secretary Seward to Minister Clay, reviewing the facts in relation to the claim by Benjamin W. Perkins against the Russian Government for $600,000 for two alleged breaches of contract, one having been made by Mr Stoeckl, the Russian Minister, in June 1855, for a quantity of powder, and the other by Capt. Lillenfeldt, January 12, 1855, for 25,000 stands of arms. Seward's letter is in reply to a communication from Mr Tolstoy, Russian adjunct Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Hon John Appleton, Mr Clay's predecessor, who had requested a hearing of the claims. The grounds assured by Mr Tolstoy were not deemed conclusive by our Government. In regard to the powder contract, he objected that was no formal written contract, while, in such a case, verbal contracts are as valid as written ones, the only difference being as to the mode of proof. Indeed, Perkins did write and sign the terms by which he was to be bound, and delivered them to Mr Stoeckl, at his request, as shown by the proofs and the agreement thus made and signed by one party could not well be held by the other to be treated as valid or void at convenience. Mr Seward then sums up the proofs filed by Mr Perkins to show that a contract was made for as much as 150 tons of powder, and says that until successful met by counter proofs on the [illegible] to the commercial laws of the United States, that the contract was made.

The contract for arms Mr Tolstoy claims was settled in the courts of New York by the acceptance of $200 by Mr Perkins, at his own suggestion, from Mr Lillenfeldt; but in this he must have been misinformed, both as to the law and as to the facts. When a contract is made by any person on behalf of the Government, he is not responsible upon it if he discloses his official relation, and a suit against him, whatever its termination, would not destroy the right of the other party to demand satisfaction of the Government. And in this case it appears conclusively that the sum of $200 was not accepted only so far as Lillenfeldt was personally concerned, and not to discharge the claim against the Russian Government.

Besides, it appears that the contract for the arms was not sought by Perkins, but was pressed upon him by Lillenfeldt, acting in the name of the Russian Government, and the action against him was brought after he had failed to comply with his contract, and having made a similar contract with Samuel Colt for a part of the same lot of arms, was about to depart from the country, leaving Perkins to get clear of his various agreements for the purchase and alteration of arms as best he could, at the same time studiously avoiding an interview with Perkins.

The Elephant Murder.

We have published an account, says the New York *Herald*, of the killing of W. S. Williams, keeper of the elephant known by the name of *Romeo*. The following account of the former exploits of the dangerous animal is interesting: *Romeo* was christened *Canada*, from the fact that he landed first in the province, and as such was known in Delavan, Wis., where he was an object of terror. He was apparently proud of his great power and supreme strength. Bolts, bars and chains were no hindrance to him. Corn fields, orchards, truck patches, and choice gardens, were sacrificed to his voracity, or his destructive disposition. He gradually grew to be a despot, feared by all, even those who had been specially engaged to handle him. In one of his paroxysms of rage he killed a number of horses, and did other injuries, creating such general consternation that the town authorities, at the instance of the citizens, ordered out the local militia to destroy him. J. Mable, wished to preserve him, (having cost an immense amount of money,) persuaded them to desist and sent for W. S. Williams, who after three days of labor succeeded in weaving a chain work around him. As long as Williams remained with him Romeo was apparently docile, although he would never permit any one else to approach him. Mr Williams, shortly after this event, retired to his farm in Canada.

Romeo was coaxed and driven to Philadelphia in the fall of 1865, where he was placed under the care of a new but inexperienced elephant manager. He was not long, however, in making a lively demonstration. He seceded from his keeper, battered down the walls of the building wherein he was confined, and escaped into the crowded thoroughfares of the city, causing a general panic. He rushed to the outskirts of the city and ensconced himself in a grove, where no one had the foolhardiness or the courage to approach him. People were afraid to walk the streets, and cannon were placed so as to rake him fore and aft. In the dilemma Mr. Williams was again summoned; but before he arrived Romeo was shot by an expert marksman, and deprived of the sight of his left eye. The wound made him furious, the crowd ran from the scene, and the mad elephant was left master of the situation. Mr Williams, with caution approached his place of ambush, the monster knew his voice and permitted him to come up, and with gentle, though firm treatment, he modified him and finally succeeded in getting him to his quarters. Mr. Williams, up to the time of his death had entire control of the animal.

The Pre-emption Claims at Alaska.

The following order has just been made public at New Archangel, Alaska.

Headquarters Military District of Alaska, Sitka, A. T.
January 22d, 1868.

General Order, No. 2.

I. For the information and observances of all concerned the following decision in reference to claims of pre-emption and settlements in this Territory and District is published.

(Copy.)

Department of State, Washington
Nov. 28th, 1868.

To Gen. U. S. Grant, Secretary of War, *ad interim*.

General:—In the absence of specific legislation by Congress for the organization of Land District in Alaska, claims of pre-emption and settlements are now only without the sanction of law, but are in direct violation of laws applicable to the public domains. Military force may be used to remove intruders if necessary.

* * * * * * *

By order of Brevet Major General Davis.

Samuel B. McIntire,
1st Lieut. 2 arty. and Bvt. Capt. U.S.A.

Errata--Confederation Meeting.

Editor British Colonist:—Sir—In the report of my speech at the Confederation meeting, published in to-day's Colonist, I find a few inaccuracies, which you will oblige me by correcting.

The report says:

"And all acts of the Imperial Government in Parliament must be submitted to Her Majesty and the members of Her Council for approval."

What I said was:

"And all acts of the Dominion Parliament must be submitted for the assent of Her Majesty."

The report says:

"No Judge can be removed except by address of the House of Commons" &c.

What I said was:

"No Judge can be removed except by address from the Senate and Commons" &c.

The report says:

"The speaker alluded to the recent Dominonal elections, and said they turned entirely on local and sides issues."

What I said was:

"That the recent Dominonal elections demonstrated that the Government of the Dominion was based on the confidence and insured by the support of an overwhelming majority of the people: but that the election in Nova Scotia had turned more on local and sides issues than on the merits of the question of Confederation."

"There are other important points in the report that require amplification to make their meaning clear to those not present at the meeting. But I intend to publish some letters in a few days on the matter that will bring my views more clearly before the public than by any attempt at present to explain such parts of the report.

I am, &c.,
A. DE COSMOS.

Friday, Jan. 30th, 1868.