

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 5.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1864.

NO. 29.

THE BRITISH COLONIST.

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THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Published for the Proprietors by G. S. WRIGHT, at No. 110, Water Street, Victoria, B. C.

NOTICE: L. P. FRENCH is our only authorized Agent for the collecting of advertisements, etc., in San Francisco.

AGENTS.	
John Meakin,	Nanaimo
Clarkson & Co.,	New Westminster
Dix & Neeson,	Yale
Barnard's Express,	Queensville, B. C.
"	Lytton
"	Vancouver
"	Richfield
"	Barkerville
"	Camerontown
"	Gintun
W. R. Burrage,	Cumax
L. P. Fisher,	San Francisco
F. Algar,	Clement's Lane, London
G. Street,	30 Cornhill, London

THE HARBOR DEBATE.

The debate yesterday on the Harbor Improvement gives us a more hopeful prospect than the previous discussions. The members are gradually arriving at the wise conclusion that the harbor, like everything else in the colony, must be improved just in proportion to our means—that we cannot afford to indulge in any more extensive loans yet awhile, or increase the taxation very visibly for the purpose of entering into an experimental work. The petition of the Chamber of Commerce, presented by Mr. DeCosmos, is a short and modest document, and shows that whatever grand ideas may have been first formed on the harbor improvement question, the merchants as a body, are determined to look the matter now in the face in only a practical light. They do not wish the burden of the outlay will have to be borne by themselves, and that a yearly drain of undefined expenditure, for even so trifling a purpose as making a harbor, (according to Mr. Pemberton's magnificent calculations) may be really paying "too dear for the whistle." They are content with the removal of the sand spit off Shoal Point, and merely ask for an appropriation to test the thing for twelve months. The petition which was presented by the same gentleman, from the merchants and tradesmen, was of a similar tenor. It prayed for an appropriation of the harbor dues for one year—about \$17,000—feeling satisfied that the urgent requirements would be met by this small outlay. Mr. DeCosmos withdrew his motion in favor of Dr. Powell's, who aimed at a compromise between the ideas of the former gentleman and the motion of Dr. Helmecken. Major Foster withdrew his previous motion and presented another, and Dr. Trimble, Mr. Franklin, and Dr. Tolmie, not to be behind hand, drew out each a motion for himself, leaving the Chairman and May's Parliamentary Practice completely enveloped beneath this rather unparliamentary load of legislative lucubrations.

FREIGHT,

GER LINE

GES!

st day of May

TRIP,

ondays and Fridays

3 A. M.,

Suspension Bridge and

Canons by daylight and

da Creek in time to con-

Stern-wheel Steamer

RPRISE,"

AYS & MONDAYS

reaching Queensville City

N TRIP

week on the arrival of the

Tuesdays & Thursdays,

in time to connect with the

New Westminster.

F. J. BARNARD, ma 6 11 20p

PRESS,

Passenger Line.

AGES!

Freight.

IPPING FAST FREIGHT

City or Cariboo, are advised might exceed 100 lbs weight. It is taken from Yale to Queensville, including 10 lbs. Consignees will engage Freight on at going rates, or if desired, see Train.

F. J. BARNARD, ma 6 11 20p

Commodore eleven of the latter class would be required at a total cost, in round numbers, of \$6000 a year. The prison labor is essentially adapted to the work, and would, no doubt, succeed as well here as it has in other countries.

Should, however, the House conclude to postpone action on the question till the next session, no great injury can possibly accrue; for, as Dr. Tolmie showed, no work of any importance will be likely to take place (on account of the weather) between October and March of the following year. The dredge and appliances will not, under any circumstances, be ready for operations before September or October, and we may, consequently, safely assert that nothing will be accomplished the present year. Whether, therefore, it is decided that an experiment shall be made and money appropriated or that the work of the harbor improving scheme shall be thrown upon the next House, the result will be of but little importance; because, as we have previously said, there is every probability of the next session commencing before the machinery can be got into working order.

Arrival of the G. S. Wright

TUESDAY, May 31—6 a.m. The steamer G. S. Wright has just arrived from Portland, which place she left on Saturday evening, bringing the following dispatches:

CHICAGO, May 24.—The Union State Convention of Massachusetts met in Boston on the 19th and appointed delegates to the Baltimore Convention. Resolutions were adopted recommending the nomination of Mr. Lincoln.

NEW YORK, May 25.—The Herald's correspondent says that Hancock's corps moved at midnight on the 20th, following the road opened by cavalry, and marched to Bowling Green, crossing the Mattapony at the Ford, without opposition. After proceeding almost directly south, Hancock hailed his column and formed in line of battle in a commanding position on the crest of a range of hills, where he is confident that he can stand against any force that Lee will deem it prudent to concentrate in an attack. We occupy the railroad between the rebel army and Richmond, over which Lee transported all the supplies for his army.

Leo must have his stronghold in the swamps and forest near Spotsylvania, and cut his way through the net in which he is entangled, and retreat to the Potomac or must crush the Army of the Potomac where it lies.

Another correspondent says that Lee in his position in front of Spotsylvania completely turned, and is compelled to abandon it.

It is now a race to see who will first reach the next line of rebel defenses, which is supposed to be on the South Anna. Lee is a trifle ahead. Our army is in good condition.

On the afternoon of May 21st, Gen. Wright was attacked, but soon put the rebels to flight.

Another correspondent says of the fight at Millford Station that French's battery amused the rebels while a cavalry force flanked their position, when they beat a hasty retreat, leaving their battery, six officers and sixty men, besides a quantity of defences, wearing apparel, &c., sent from Richmond the day previous, in our hands.

New York, May 25.—A correspondent in the 9th corps says: "Simultaneously with the attack on our left, on the night of the 19th, a division of cavalry attacked our extreme right wing, composed of Ferrero's colored troops. The attack was impetuous, but was met with great steadiness. Heavy volleys from the files of the colored troops soon brought the rebels to a halt. They formed again, however, and advanced more steadily, but were again met with unflinching bravery, and finding they could make no impression on our brave troops, they left the field. Next morning not a rebel was to be seen on our front. Here, as on the left, the rebel strategy, so often successful, of cutting off our supplies, failed, and they abandoned the attempt with disgust.

Advices from the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, dated the 22d, says the army under Hancock arrived at Millford yesterday, and met a force of the enemy said to number 13,000 men, drove them through the town and pursued them some distance. Our loss is unknown.

An attack was made on our headquarters train near Guinea Station yesterday evening. The rebels were repulsed. Some prisoners were taken.

A dispatch dated headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, May 22d, ten o'clock, p.m. says: Hancock is seven miles south of Bowling Green, and occupies the bridge over the Mattapony river. Our cavalry had a good deal of fighting had been done by our cavalry, who drove the enemy all the time. Our position is deemed important, and Richmond is considered in greater danger than before.

The War Department had received a despatch from Grant dated 11 o'clock on Monday night, which states that the army had moved from its position on North Anna, following Lee's army closely. The 5th and 6th corps brought the rebels to a halt. They formed again, however, and advanced more steadily, but were again met with unflinching bravery, and finding they could make no impression on our brave troops, they left the field. Next morning not a rebel was to be seen on our front. Here, as on the left, the rebel strategy, so often successful, of cutting off our supplies, failed, and they abandoned the attempt with disgust.

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They have buried their dead under a flag of truce. 3,400 wounded have been brought James river since the army landed.

NASHVILLE, May 24.—The Journal is advised that Gen. John H. Morgan at the head of 5000 or 6000 cavalry at Abington, Va., contemplates an immediate raid in Kentucky via Pound Gap. Our forces are ready to give him a warm reception.

Portland. The steamer Leviathan has been sold to Mr. W. H. Evans as agent for the Government and will be brought to Victoria as a pleasure boat.

A portion of Capt. Drake's command under Lieut. McCall and Watson, attacked the Snake Indians who were strongly entrenched behind rocks, but after a loss of four killed and 8 wounded, the troops were drawn off to await assistance. In the meantime the Indians fled and their camp was burned. Lieut. Watson was among the killed. The Indian loss is supposed to have been great.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—A Fredericksburg letter, dated yesterday, says that a number of ambulances, under a flag of truce, have gone to Chancellorsville to collect such of our wounded as were left in the Wilderness. The guerrillas in that neighborhood continue their depredations.

PHILADELPHIA, May 25.—The Bulletin has the following special dispatch, dated Washington, May 25th: The Republican extra says, it gives us pleasure to announce the fact that the intelligence has reached this city, that Lee, after falling back from the North Anna, as already stated, commenced a hasty retreat and had reached a point beyond the South Anna, pursued with great vigor by Grant. The latter is in the saddle all the time, day and night, directing the general movements of the army in person. Unless Lee stops to fight to-day we shall next hear of the grand conflict for the city of Richmond, before or in the works of that city.

Prisoners say that Jeff. Davis and Cabinet left Richmond some days since. There is little doubt that by this time Richmond is pretty well cleaned out of its inhabitants, and that it is leaving less than a fortress.

There are still numbers of our sick and wounded at Fredericksburg. Skirmishing occurs daily with the guerrillas, but always in our favor.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The latest dispatch from Gen. Grant's headquarters, are from Mount Carroll Church, 1 p.m., yesterday. The dispatch says everything is going on well. Warren has 400 prisoners, Hancock 300. Wright 200. Warren's loss is 1000 men, 200 in killed and wounded. Hancock's loss, who are in great part from North Carolina, are much discouraged, and say they have deserted them.

Hancock and Warren would reach South Anna by nightfall. Butler, in a despatch dated 7 o'clock, a.m., reports that Fitzhugh Lee, with cavalry, infantry and artillery, attacked the post at Williams wharf, on the north side of James river, below Fort Powhatan, and were handsomely repulsed by the garrison, composed of colored troops. Before the attack was made, Lee sent a flag of truce stating that he had come large enough to take the place, and demanded a surrender; and in case the garrison should surrender, they would be turned over to the authorities at Richmond, as prisoners of war. If the proposition was rejected, he would not be responsible for the consequences.

No other report of military operations has been received to-day. (Signed) STANTON, Sec. of War.

A telegram from Admiral Foote to the Secretary of the Navy, dated May 22, states that last night and Saturday night the enemy attacked our army and were handsomely repulsed.

A dispatch from Gen. Canby, dated May 18th, at the Mouth of Red River, states that Gen. Banks' troops reached Morgan to-day, in better condition than had been expected, and will be ready to assume offensive operations soon.

A messenger from the army of the Potomac the 24th, who left at 6 o'clock p.m., reports the enemy crossing South Anna, with our troops in close pursuit.

Over six hundred prisoners have been brought in since yesterday. More are hourly arriving. Firing heard this morning in the direction of Potomac, supposed to be from the rebel battery which is reported to be placed at a point 12 miles from Fredericksburg.

One of Lee's orders was brought in at headquarters to-day, on whom was found a despatch to Lee from Lee, ordering him to fall back to the defence of Richmond. This despatch says some days ago his brother had been at Plymouth and Drury's bluff. After fighting Butler he sent to join Lee's army this afternoon, a detachment from the cavalry.

The expedition under Sheridan arrived at headquarters 38, announcing the safe return of the command across the Pamunkey last night, and that they would arrive tonight.

Custer's division cut the railroad 12 miles below Hanover Junction on the 21st, burning two bridges and tearing up miles of railway. The horses of the expedition are pretty well exhausted but a few days will put them in condition for service.

The Richmond White says, Brig. Gen. Gordon, of North Carolina, commanding the cavalry, died on Thursday, from wounds received while fighting Sheridan's cavalry near Richmond.

New York, May 26.—The Tribune's special says that rebel prisoners state that Lee's whole army was moving through Hanover Junction; but when intelligence reached them that Grant was moving toward North Anna, portions of Longstreet's and Hill's corps were sent to prevent the passage of the river, their resistance, though sharp, was futile. Our troops forced their way over and drove the rebels back a mile, sustaining but very little damage.

Another correspondent says that Grant, after his last movement, remarked that he would have risked three battles to have gained the advantages which he has now gained.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 27.—Legal tenders 681. Gold to-day, in New York, 183.

The Oregon sailed to-day for Portland and Victoria.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 24.—The steamer Powell, Butler's dispatch boat, has arrived, and reports everything quiet since Saturday night.

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THE WAR AND HEROES WHO HAVE FALLEN.

The following is an extract from the *Alta's* report of the Rev. Dr. Bellow's introductory address to the people of San Francisco:

The distinguished philanthropist, before concluding, spoke of the cheerful prospects now held out for an overwhelming victory to the Nation's arms. We should not be dismayed by the croakings of the doubting, or false reports disseminated by the enemies of liberty. These are foul mounted arguings. The hosts of the Union soldiers now below the Rapid Ann were sure to achieve a victory over the enemy, brave and unflinching as they are, and marshalled as they are by the able and strategic Lee. But this leader had another now to confront him who was to have his fame enhanced by defeating his wily foe.

In the midst of his apostrophe to the heroism of our gallant army, the enthusiasm of the audience could not be longer controlled. Cheers upon cheers, long, loud and wild, went up for Grant, Butler, and our noble troops. The Doctor, accustomed as he is to enthusiastic assemblages in the Atlantic States, was evidently impressed with these magnificent demonstrations of loyalty, away out here, thousands of miles from the scene of strife. Silence being restored, the speaker eulogized the brave Generals who but yesterday, as it were, laid down their precious lives on the altar of their country. The heroic Sedgwick, whose death we lament, he had seen in his tent, active, watchful, earnest—a man who for three years had uninterruptedly continued in the service of his country. The tribute he paid the dead hero brought tears to many eyes unused to weeping. It was a paengetic lofty, impassioned and sincere.

General Wadsworth, too, he knew well. A man of immense fortune, he forsook his luxurious home in the Valley of the Genesee to devote his wealth, his services, his life, for that cause so dear to him—the cause of his country. Of his benevolence and generosity the speaker gave a notable example. He one day rang the bell at the private study of the Doctor, and begged of him to transmit the sum of \$5,000 to two suffering soldiers of his division, incarcerated in rebel dungeons. The Doctor could not send any moneys other than to the general fund. He asked the General to place his check at the disposal of the Committee. The magnanimous man promptly and cheerfully complied with the request.

In a glowing peroration the orator pictured the dying soldier on the field of battle. To him the humblest was as dear as the highest officer. That soldier in his last moments had a consolation far greater than could be bestowed by mortal hands. He looked on his life blood, his glory, and his reward was the highest and most immortal.

The Sioux War.—The St. Paul papers publish some interesting news from the Indian country. The following confirms a previous telegraphic report:

Major Hatch has informed General Sibley that his application to Governor Dallas for permission to cross the line and attack the Sioux has been granted, on condition that our forces do not interfere with the settlements. From other news which we have, it seems likely that this permission comes too late, as the Indians have moved off toward Missouri, and Major Hatch's command is so poorly mounted that he can not pursue. We should be pleased if it proves otherwise, but from our present information, attach but little importance to this concession of Governor Dallas, though it had been made three months earlier, it would have been of immense value. It is also stated that detachments from General Sibley's scouts at the head of the Coteau, Fort Abercrombie, confirm the reports previously received, that the different bands of Missouri Sioux are concentrating for warlike purposes at some point near Apple Creek. The Sissetons are for the most part anxious for peace, but the other bands are hostile, and will probably be joined by the refugees from the British possessions. The scouts at the "Head of the Coteau," north-west from Lake Travers, have written to Gen. Sibley under date of the 24th ultimo, that they have held communication with some of the Sioux Indians from the upper country.—These Indians report that most of the Sissetons are, as before stated, anxious for peace. They are encamped near "Big Mound," on the Missouri Coteau, to the number of two hundred and twenty lodges. The Yanstonais are expected to arrive in the same neighborhood shortly. The Teton Sioux are assembling on the bank of the Missouri river, preparatory to crossing to this side, as they say they will state if they remain there. They will be governed by the course of the Yanstonais as to peace or war with the Americans. An attack upon Fort Union, on the Missouri, is apprehended; the Sioux threatening to make an assault to secure the large amount of ammunition stored at that post.

SPORTING LAW.—A case in which the sporting world is supposed to take a great interest was disposed of at Cambridge before the New Prison Court in the 22nd inst. Mr. W. Willes, writer in the *Morning Post*, offended the Jockey Club by some comments, and they warned him off the Newmarket course. He disputed their right to warn him off a place so public, and the Club brought an action of trespass to try the right. The judge held that the right to warn persons of a racecourse adhered to its proprietors, and the jury consequently found a verdict for the plaintiffs, with nominal damages. It would have been rather a serious matter for the turf had the decision gone the other way, as this is the only check possessed by the Club over persons of a very different character from Mr. Willes; but the Club is a private body and the authority of a public one.—*Spectator*.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25.—Gen. Chipman was released from Alcatraz to-day, on taking the oath, and giving five thousand dollars bonds.

The case of Levy and McDougall, parties engaged in the shooting affray in which a lady was accidentally shot, were fined, the former \$100, and the latter \$10. The charge of attempt to murder against Levy is not yet determined.

Private telegrams say that the Excise duty on spirits will probably be \$2,000 per gallon from the 1st of June.

26 h Flour sales.—Alviso, 9; Golden Gate, 850@855; Sun-flour, 775@775; Wheat, 1000 sacks, 200; 500 sacks, 200; 270; Barley, 350@375; Oats, 287½@292½; Legal tenders 57½@58½.

The Pacific has arrived from Victoria.

EUROPEAN.

HALIFAX, May 25.—The Asia from Liverpool the 1