

## The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, October 24, 1865.

## A HOPEFUL MINING PROJECT.

In another column will be found a letter from a Leech River miner, suggesting a scheme for bringing a ditch of water from the North Fork of Leech River to Kennedy Flat. The idea is not exactly new; for it has been talked about for some time past; but it comes now at an opportune moment, and in so practicable a shape in its details as to leave but very few obstacles in the way of its consummation. When we look upon the immense amount of time and labor that has been frittered away at Sooke—when we hear of the numbers of men who have gone hither to mine and returned disheartened; not because there was any want of faith in the auriferous character of the country, but because the only extensive diggings—the benches—were unworkable for want of water, we are led to ask the very natural question, can the defect be overcome—the want supplied? The query is answered by a response from the miners themselves. Water can be not only obtained but obtained cheaply. One or two hundred men are ready to-morrow to undertake for a mere pittance the task of bringing a ditch from the North Fork to Kennedy Flat, a distance of five miles, and over a series of benches which would, it is said by practical men, afford labor for a thousand miners. All that these men require is sufficient food while the work is going on, the balance of their wages they will take in ditch scrip.

At the present season, when so many men are either out of work, or likely to be so, it is of the greatest necessity that some effort should be made to find employment for our winter population. Two or three thousand dollars spent by the property owners and business men of Victoria in making the Sooke diggings available for eight or ten hundred miners, would be the best investment the inhabitants could make at any time; but at the present, when things are unusually dull, the money so spent would be repaid a hundred fold. That there is not much exaggeration attached to the benefits which a ditch to Kennedy Flat is said to confer, we have only to appeal to those miners who have had an experience of the auriferous character of the Leech River benches. By these men we are told that for miles the benches would average at the lowest computation by sluicing two dollars a day. Hydraulic mining, of course, would prove much more remunerative. All this, however, is outside what may be deemed a by no means improbable incident, the discovery of leads or heavy deposits of gold in the hills. At present there is a company at work, called we believe the Williamson Company, which for energy and perseverance might well take rank among the foremost of the enterprising and undaunted claim-holders of Cariboo. This company tunneled, under the most adverse circumstances, a distance of one hundred and seventy-five feet into the hill. A little while ago, however, a "cave" of fifty feet occurred, which put a summary termination to their work, and they were obliged to commence a new tunnel, which is now about twenty feet into the hill; but unlike the former one, is on the bed-rock. The company have every hope of striking the "lead" when the original bed of the creek shall have been reached. Whether they do so or not, however, their enterprise is commendable, and worthy of more general emulation.

The gold which has already been obtained at Sooke, whether we take the quality or general appearance into consideration, indicates unmistakably the presence of large deposits in the immediate vicinity, and there is we think but one opinion in pronouncing that vicinity to be the hills. The proposition which is before the Victoria public is the only one by which we are likely to have the hills thoroughly prospected. It is besides the only one that will induce the miners at the present season to go vigorously to work. If something is not done in the matter Sooke will unequivocally "go in." There is no help for it; and all the money, time and anxiety hitherto expended on it will have been expended in vain. On the other hand if those who can afford it will come forward now and lend assistance to the ditch enterprise, we shall, during the best part of the winter, have a mining population at our very doors profitably employed. The benefits which this would confer on Victoria can scarcely be overrated. With anything like the permanent population which the ditch would attract to Sooke, property in Victoria would experience a sudden reaction for the better, and business would meet with an equally rapid revival. So anxious are the miners themselves for the enterprise, and so firmly convinced are they of its profitable character, that all those who are at work between Bacon Bar and Kennedy Flat are willing, if the water is brought from the North Fork to the former place, a distance of three miles, to continue the other two miles at their own risk and expense. The undertaking is so palpably a beneficial one, that it should receive but little commendation to make the public meet it in a praiseworthy spirit. Let the men be employed, let the ditch be

brought in, and we guarantee we shall have contiguous diggings, if not remarkable for their rich deposits, at least productive of that general diffusion of the precious metal, which is esteemed the most valuable quality the best of mines can possess.

## SAN FRANCISCO AND HER TAXES.

[From the S. F. Bulletin.]

We find on examination that the inhabitants of San Francisco in 1864 contributed for the support of the State and municipal governments \$1,432,003. Of this sum \$925,724 was for municipal and \$506,279 for State expenses. Taking the population of San Francisco at 112,700; as set down in the Directory for the same year, would give a taxation upon the citizens of this city equal to \$12 70 per head. Of this amount there is required for the payment of interest upon the municipal debt and the formation of a sinking fund to reduce the same \$472,474; making with the city's proportion of the interest upon the State debt a sum approximating to \$700,000 annually. According to a statement just published, the amount necessary at the present time to meet the accruing interest and form a sinking fund for the municipal debt is \$541,674; but inasmuch as a considerable sum has already accumulated in the sinking fund the estimate for 1864 is sufficiently correct for our purpose. From this it will be seen that our total expenses of the municipal and State governments, exclusive of payments for indebtedness already accrued, is about \$732,003, or \$6 49 for each person in the city.

Although State and city expenses could be considerably reduced, yet, aside from the taxation for the payment of debts, the inhabitants of San Francisco are much better off than some of their neighbors—for instance, those of the British provinces north of us. From a late number of the BARRISAN COLONIST we learn that the taxes of British Columbia amount to \$100 per head for every man, woman and child throughout the territory. The same journal further states that the taxation on Vancouver Island averages from \$65 to \$70 for each person. The resources of British Columbia and Vancouver Island must be very great, else they could not stand such extraordinary taxation. What would the inhabitants of California say to an annual drain upon their resources to the extent of \$100 per head? a sum which, if contributed throughout the United States, in a single year would cancel the entire National debt. The Colonist gives the following statement in respect to Colonial taxation generally, which we copy for the benefit of our readers. [Here follows our table of taxation.—Ed. Col.]

From the above it will be seen that taxation under British rule runs extremely high; in fact it graduates the amount to be raised according to the capacities of the people to pay. Even bankrupt Canada is taxed \$6 per head, and in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island, where poverty reigns supreme, the inhabitants pay annually a very considerable sum per capita.

We give these data in respect to taxation in the British colonies to show what extraordinary amounts of money may be drawn from a frugal and industrious people. In this respect the capabilities of the United States have never been properly estimated. If citizens being comparatively free from debt, and having an economical government, taxes until recently were merely nominal throughout the Union. Extravagance and mismanagement in a few large cities have involved the people for the time being, but even in such cases the capacities of tax payers have never been subjected to an overstrain. Probably the inhabitants of the United States under the new order of things, including interest upon the National debt, will have lighter taxes to pay than any other commercial nation in the world; surely not one-half as much in proportion to their capacities as those of either France or England.

**THE TOMATO AS FOOD.**—A good medical authority ascribes to the tomato the following very important medical qualities:—First—that the tomato is not only one of the most powerful aperients of the liver and other organs, but it is one of the most effective and least harmful medical agents known to the profession. Second—that a chemical extract will be obtained from it that will supersede the use of calomel in the cure of disease. Third—that he has successfully treated diarrhoea with this article alone. Fourth—that when used as an article of diet it is almost sovereign for dyspepsia and indigestion. Fifth—that it should be constantly used for daily food. Either cooked or raw, or in the form of catsup, it is the most healthy article now in use.

**THE BRIDGE RIVER DIGGINGS.**—The following is an extract of a letter from Mr. Alfred Smith to his brother: The Government prospecting party returned to Lillooet on the 8th instant. They give most fabulous accounts of the discoveries on the east branch of the south fork of Bridge River. It is the same creek that Captain Cadwallader knew about. According to Jamieson's account Cariboo will be thrown in the shade very soon. I was in Lillooet to-day and saw many persons taking out licenses and recording claims. Every man that was out has got all the claims he can hold, and some for his friends. The gold is coarse, not thin flakes, but rough. The specimen pieces were from the size of a pin's head to a pea. The party would have prospected the main south fork, but the two months—the limited time—was out the day before they got back to Lillooet.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION.**—The Rev'd Father Maloney visited Nanaimo last week to establish a Catholic Mission in that rising town. The reverend gentleman, we learn, was much pleased with his visit, and was delighted with the very pretty little chapel, erected by the untiring zeal of the Right Rev'd Bishop Demers. Divine service was held on Sunday, which was respectfully attended, and the congregation were much gratified with the reverend gentleman's ministrations. Much good is expected to result from the mission.

## THE CHARGE OF ARSON.

Maurice Carey appeared on remand in the police court charged on suspicion of attempted arson with intent to defraud the Phoenix Insurance Company.

Mr. S. Green appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Crown and also to watch the case for the Insurance Company.

The accused defended his own case.

The information of Sergt. Wilmer was read which stated that there was coal oil in the shop in the bottom of several bottles which were produced in Court, and that several shelves and pasteboard boxes had been saturated with coal oil; that entrance to the premises had been made by the back door. Sergt. Wilmer also stated that the accused said on the evening of the fire, when he was in his store that he did not know anything of a duplicate key that opened the back door. The principal part of the information by Sergeant Wilmer has already been published.

Sergt. Wilmer cross-examined by Mr. Carey—One of the workmen came with us into the back store; you did not send us (Wilmer and Welsh) to look after a key. I asked you if you looked the store and had the key; when the duplicate key was produced you said that was the first time you had seen the key.

Mr. Carey—Did I not ask my man in the presence of Mr. DeCosmos and others whether he had parted with the keys of the store?

Wilmer—I do not remember your asking the question.

Carey—Oh! What a horrible memory you have.

A letter was here handed to the Bench from Mr. Bishop, asking that the case be postponed, but the accused objected to a remand, stating that he must look for something higher than an attorney to conduct his defence now.

Mr. Turgooose of the Commercial hotel, said Mr. Carey came into his house on Saturday night and had a drink with a friend; he asked me if that was the right time, pointing to a clock over the bar, that was about 11:30; the accused said he had never been out so late before.

Cross-examined by Mr. Green—I heard the fire bell ring after Carey had been in my house; I do not know the other man; I have not seen him before or since, and if I did I do not think I should know him.

By the Bench—I should say it was more than half an hour between the time Carey had his drink that the fire bell rang.

Cross-examined by Carey—It is a common practice with the people to ask if the clock is right; I could not tell what the man with you looked like.

Mr. T. C. Nuttall examined by Mr. Green—I was on the premises the night of the fire about 12 o'clock; Mr. DeCosmos, Sergt. Wilmer, Buckley, and Welch were present at first after that Mr. Carey came in; one of the policemen found a duplicate key; Carey was asked if he had a duplicate key and he said he never had one; Am agent for the Phoenix Insurance Co.; on the 29th of March the property in Carey's store was insured for \$3000, in the name of Maurice Carey & Co.; on the 7th of Sept. it was changed from Carey & Co. to Maurice Carey.

Mr. Pemberton here ruled that this evidence could not be used unless notice was given to the prisoner to produce the policy.

Mr. T. C. Nuttall, examination continued—On the night of the fire there seemed to be very little property there, I should not value it at over \$500.

Cross-examined by Carey—Did I not tell you that you might withdraw your policy and be done when it was renewed.

Mr. Nuttall—No, not to my recollection; I said I should do so if it was not paid and you sent me to your brother.

Mr. Jacob was examined and proved that Mr. Carey denied all knowledge of the duplicate key.

[Here the witnesses were ordered out of Court by request of the accused.]

On descending to the shop occupied by Maurice Carey I found Mr. DeCosmos and other persons inside, including Inspector Welch and Sergeant Wilmer, afterwards I saw Mr. Carey and one of his men. There was no fire to be seen there, but the premises were full of smoke. The Superintendent, I think, found a key outside the back door and showed it to Mr. Carey who denied all knowledge of it, and said he had never seen it before. He said there never was a duplicate key.

Cross-examined by the prisoner—I had been five or ten minutes on Yates street when the fire took place. I think the inside key was found first. Don't know who broke the window. Took a light with me down the back stairs to see that all was right.

Mr. Powell—Proved the sale of two bottles of coal oil (bottles produced) on the Saturday night of the fire to some man whom he did not know in the drug store of Messrs. Moore & Co. Recognized the bottles by the labels, but would not swear positively to them. They now bore the smell of coal oil.

Cross-examined—Often sell coal oil in similar bottles; \$1 50 was paid for the oil. Never sold oil in bottles before in this town without labelling them. The man was in a hurry. Thought he wanted it for machinery.

Mr. Green tendered evidence to show a motive for arson.

The Magistrate thought the evidence inadmissible at this stage, but on its being stated by the Inspector that papers had been found which would materially assist the case the evidence was taken.

Captain Loeseker, clerk to P. M. Backus, auctioneer, proved sale of boots to the value of \$124 on the 18th September. Account sales were rendered and the money paid to the prisoner.

Cross-examined—Prisoner bought some leather on the day of the sale.

J. A. McCrea, auctioneer, proved the sale of boots on the 19th September, which grossed over \$300, the net proceeds of which he paid to prisoner.

J. C. Warnes, examined by Mr. Green—Was in the employ of Mr. Carey for several weeks as a bootman. McCrea sometimes opened the back door for us to go in. There was a key hanging up, but did not handle it. One of the keys produced resembles the one that Mr. Carey hung up, saying that it belonged to the back house, and if any gentleman called, for it he could have it. Locked the back door himself at about 5 o'clock on the afternoon of the fire, leaving the key in the inside as was customary, and going out of the front door. The

other key was then hanging up. Returned in the evening for wages. The custom was for D. McCadden to take the key five days out of six over to Mansell's, where he slept, and he believed that Mr. Carey took the keys on Saturday night. Was told by Mr. Carey on Sunday after the fire that it was fortunate he did not take the keys on that night. The key was tried in the back house and would not fit it. It was tried in the back shop door on the Sunday following the fire and fitted.

Witness, in answer to a question from prisoner, said he could tell a great deal more yet if the questions were put to him.

By the Court—McCadden told me in the presence of Carey on Monday after the fire not to say anything about the keys as it might do him and Maurice an injury. I asked him how would it hurt him? He said it would do him injury. Carey came previously to me in a rough manner and told me not to go blabbering over town about the keys, but to go and tell the police all I knew. In consequence of that I went to the police.

The Bench here asked witness whether he knew anything else? He was bound to tell the whole truth.

Witness—Yes, but you won't let me say anything except he was present. (Laughter)

David McCadden, sworn—Have been in the employ of Maurice Carey as a shoemaker. Took the key of the back door every night except Saturday night. It hung behind the door. Remember the fire; took the key of the front door that night. Mr. Carey took the back key; he said the key hung up as usual; I kept the front door key in my pocket; he had a friend from the Active with him and I left him to close up. I closed up at 10. Never saw any other key of the back door. There were three keys fitting the front, middle and back door. The middle door key hung up. I recognize one of the keys produced as the key of the back door. Never saw the other key before. Heard Mr. Carey speak one day about a key he had found in the closet, but did not observe what he did with it and did not see it hanging up.

Had a conversation with Warnes, who said Carey had brought in a key from the closet. Witness said he understood it was the key of the closet.

Mr. Pemberton here warned the witness against the consequences of perjury, and questioned him several times as to the conversation about the keys, but could elicit nothing more.

By Mr. Green—Was in a lager beer saloon on Johnson street when the fire bells rang. Found some firemen and others there.

By the prisoner—What Warnes said was that the key you brought in you hung up on the wall. I said I understood it was the key of the closet. You replied that you knew nothing about the keys and that Warnes had better go and tell Mr. Pemberton all he knew. When you left the shop that night you told me the key was hanging on the wall and if you were not back before 10 I might shut up and take the keys. Never saw these bottles in the store and never knew of coal oil being used on the premises. I called you out of your bed and when you came down to the shop you did not leave the front shop until you sent the police to see if the key of the back door was still hanging up.

The Bench here intimated to the witness that he might sign his evidence or not as he pleased, but it would be used against him. The witness said he would sign it.

The Superintendent asked for a remand for a week as an important witness was absent. Prisoner protested against his being remanded as there was no evidence whatever to connect him with the offence and he was under such heavy bonds that he could not be released and could not do justice to his family. He had moreover done everything in his power to assist the Inspector in this matter.

Mr. Pemberton declined to lessen the amount of the bonds and remarked that the case had assumed a more serious aspect than before, since the evidence of the last witness had been taken. He should however remand the accused for three days only and if necessary the police could then apply for a farther remand.

McCadden was subsequently arrested.

## HARD TIMES VS. HIGH RENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir: Permit me through the medium of your widely-circulated journal to direct the attention of lessors of property to the suicidal policy being pursued in these hard times by many of their number. It is well known that business is almost at a standstill, yet many landlords who have the power of coercing their tenants will not hear of any reduction. Like true hylocks they'll have their bonds, and prefer to see their tenants gradually decline and finally collapse and their property become valueless by an exodus of the population, than to reduce to a reasonable standard the present exorbitant rents. Would it not be better that these landlords should at once do something to meet the times than that the present occupiers of their houses and stores should give up their occupations and quit the colony while they have the means? Hoping that this letter may also attract the attention of some of the oppressed, and that steps may be taken to lessen the evil, I am, sir, your ob'dt servant, J. H. FAIR PLAY.

**DEATH OF ANTOINE LUCANAGE.**—The Nanaimo Gazette furnishes the following particulars of the death of this murderer whose remains were discovered by West Henston. We learn that the skeleton remains of Antoine, the murderer of Mr. Ogilvie, officer of customs at Bentinck Arm, had been found in Hardy Bay near Fort Rupert. Antoine had engaged Indians, it appears, to convey him to the Fort, and while on the way the Indians shot him, alleging as their reason that he would not pay them. A revolver and boat belonging to Antoine were also found. The weather up North has of late been very disagreeable.

**MR. ARNOU,** well known in this city and at Leech River, is now travelling correspondent to the Oregonian in the mining districts of that territory.

**MOUNT HOOD** is said by the Oregonian to be in a state of fusion, and was at last accounts emitting dense volumes of smoke.

## CITY COUNCIL.

Monday Evening, Oct. 16th.

The Council met at 7 p.m. Present—His Worship the Mayor and Councillors Smith, Jeffery, Carey, and Hibbard.

## FISGARD STREET.

Leave was given to Messrs. Duck and Sandover to improve portion of street fronting their premises on Fisgard street to junction with Store street.

## STORE STREET.

Leave was given to Mr. R. Elford to occupy portion of Fort street pending the erection of a brick building.

His Worship wished there were a thousand such applications.

## FINANCE.

Mr. Smith introduced his notice of motion requesting that the Executive would reimburse a portion of the real estate tax for defraying salaries and other incidental expenses of the Council. Mr. Smith said the half per cent real estate tax would yield about \$20,000, and leave a balance to the credit of the Corporation of about \$6,000.

The Mayor thought the motion an important one at the close of the Corporation year. The Government however could not devote Corporation funds to any other than corporate purposes.

Mr. Hibbard seconded the resolution believing it necessary that the Corporation should ascertain the amount of its liabilities and settle up accounts.

The Mayor said the accounts would be collected forthwith.

Mr. Carey remarked that the answer received by the Colonial Secretary to the last application was very incisive.

The Mayor said he felt satisfied that there would be a considerable sum coming to the Corporation and the Governor had admitted that the funds could not be touched except for city purposes.

The motion was carried nem. con.

## AUDITORS.

Mr. Smith moved the appointment of a Committee for the purpose of having the Corporation accounts properly audited.

The motion was carried and His Worship named Councillors Smith, Jeffery and Hibbard as the Auditing Committee.

## CLOSING ACCOUNTS.

His Worship observed that the liabilities of the Council were few, and instead of advertising the Clerk had better go round and get them in.

Mr. Hibbard was in favor of an advertisement as it would leave claimants without excuse.

Mr. Carey said it was needless to incur an expense of \$15 in giving the notice to each of the papers. They had better hand it to the Chronicle which had always opposed the Council.

## LIST OF VOTERS.

On motion of Mr. Carey the Clerk was instructed to prepare the necessary List of Voters at the Municipal Election to take place on the 9th November next, and if necessary that permission be asked of the Executive to copy said list.

## SURVEY.

Mr. Carey introduced a resolution instructing the City Surveyor to define the boundary of lot 182, corner of Store and Johnson streets, and to charge expense of same to Mr. Chas. Gowan. The resolution was carried and Mr. Gowan was informed that the city seal should be affixed to the lines furnished by the City Surveyor which could never be disputed.

Council adjourned till Monday evening next.

## WHAT TO DO WITH LEECH RIVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir—While we are daily receiving flaring accounts of rich strikes on the Big Bend and Bridge river, let us not forget we have diggings here that only want developing. Had there been the same energy displayed in prospecting our island diggings as there has been in the upper country, no doubt ere this there would have been rich diggings at Leech; and although Leech up to the present time has turned out badly, it is not too late for great things to be done. There is a proposal now laid before the business community of Victoria that, if properly carried out, will be a great step towards proving the auriferous wealth of our island.

There are 200 men on and near Leech river who are willing to cut a ditch to convey water from the North Fork to Kennedy Flat, bringing it over all the benches where good pay is known to exist, so that they may drain them. This will afford diggings for 1000 men, and with no doubt lead to further discoveries. Men will then be able to sink shafts, and having water, make decent wages by washing the dirt, from which previously they have been deterred through want of water. Then let every man in Victoria give from one to five, or ten dollars, as he can, best afford, either in cash or provisions, and tools. Let a Committee be formed to receive the donations and to see that the monies are properly spent and the provisions properly dealt with. The men are willing to work on these terms, viz. to be kept in grub whilst cutting the ditch and take the balance of their wages out in scrip. Here is a fine opportunity for every man showing his desire to promote the welfare of our Island; let us raise our colony out of its lethargic state. I trust that every one will see that this project will be a great good and I am sure not a single man will ever regret having given a dollar or so in so good a cause. I am glad to hear that several mercantile gentlemen have already promised donations, and to-morrow (Tuesday) there will be some active canvassers round town.

Thanking you for your valuable space

I remain, &c.,

FEELING GRATEFUL, A. STURGEON.

## LANGUAGES.

MR. ARNOU, the well-known and popular professor of languages gives notice that he purposes giving instruction in the French and Spanish languages in this city during the winter months. The acknowledged attainments of the professor as a linguist will doubtless ensure him a sufficient number of pupils desirous of acquiring a proficiency in these useful modern languages.