

The Weekly British Colonialist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, September 12, 1886.

James Bay Bridge, and Public Works Within the City.

It is to be hoped that some steps will be taken to repair the two bridges upon the Esquimalt road as well as the James Bay Bridge; all are in great want of repair. Perhaps the last mentioned is the most unsafe, in fact we have heard it stated by professional men, that it is so far unsound that its own weight may bring it down any day, whilst those on the Esquimalt road could not be expected to withstand such a concussion as might be caused by a snow or heavily laden large drifting against the piles. The Town Council have requested the Mayor to communicate with the Colonial Secretary respecting the present condition of James Bay Bridge; and we sincerely hope that something beyond red tape will arise out of the communication. If the Government are prepared to find \$1000, provided the Corporation find whatever may be necessary beyond that sum, to put this bridge into thorough repair, there ought to be no difficulty about the matter, and there can be no valid reason existing for putting off the commencement of the work any longer. No doubt the civil authorities will be desirous to have the work carried on under their own supervision, but if they have no City Surveyor, such amateur inspection of works as could be afforded by the Street Committee, aided by the Mayor, and possibly the Finance Committee, would not be particularly satisfactory. There have been instances of drains constructed by Town Council, under the supervision of City Surveyors, not carrying off the water from the localities intended to be drained; and it would be awkward if a bridge should fall in carrying passengers safely across it if rebuilt or repaired under similar auspices. We would far rather see some one individual responsible for the work being properly done, and no doubt that individual ought to be the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works; let the Mayor and Corporation, by all means, exercise a proper control over the city purse, but so long as there is a staff kept up in the Land Office, who are paid very largely in proportion to the work done, we cannot see why if there is nothing else that they can do, they should not be temporarily employed on the bridges adjacent to the Capital and public offices. Indeed it is not impossible that some co-operation between the Government and Corporation, in works of public necessity within the city, might be productive of good. All the town sites in the Colony have been originally laid out by the Land Office, whether or not with a view to any system of drainage we cannot say, but we must assume that this most important consideration cannot have been entirely overlooked. It is high time that proper measures should be taken to have the City of Victoria properly drained. Another matter of growing importance to owners of town lots, is the proper settlement of boundaries; if a private individual wishes to build upon his lot on Kane street, Vancouver street, or in any other locality where the adjacent lots are not enclosed, he in the first place, applies to such surveyor as he thinks proper to employ, who traces the boundaries for him, and no sooner has the owner put up his fence than he is immediately warned that he is off the line; in consternation he calls in a second surveyor, whose limits differ perhaps by inches, or in some instances by feet, from the first; in despair he calls in a third professional, and either endeavours to strike a mean, or adopts the opinion of the surveyor he considers most favourable to himself, and encloses his lot with a brick wall, confident that no jury will require him to move a permanent improvement, even if it may chance to be a little off the line. This seems of no great consequence now

when a few inches more or less of frontage is not of material consequence, but when the value of city land is increased to such an extent as to make the inches worth fighting for, it will be too late to commence settling the boundaries. The Corporation would do well to look to this matter in time; whether or not there is anyone in the Land Office competent to mark off every street and every lot in the city, we cannot say; doubtless there are men in the town fully competent to do so, and if the Council in conjunction with the Land Office would employ whoever is the most competent for this work at a moderate salary, the money would be well spent. A scale of fees might be adopted, to be payable by all private individuals putting up buildings or fences within the city, for a certificate of boundaries without which no post should be allowed to be put into the ground; these fees in stirring times would go a long way towards paying the salary of the surveyor. A boundary commission to consist of a member of the Land Office with two or three surveyors practising their profession within the city, might also be appointed with great advantage to the public, who should have power to settle all disputed points, and so save endless disputes and actions at law hereafter.

An Indian Row.

About nine or ten o'clock last night, a drunken row broke out between two tribes of Hydahs, Skiddegates and Coal Harbors, about a boat which was stolen, and belonging to one of the party. Shortly afterwards market firing commenced, and some of the balls came flying across the water as far as the H. B. Co's wharf and Johnson street. The police were notified when Sergt Bowden with ten officers and nightwatchmen and two citizens, proceeded to the Hydah camp, by way of the Hospital, where it was found that some of the shots approached very closely, but nobody was hurt. The police next went towards Mr Owen's house, the missionary, and on the way, three Indians were seen to make off into the bush; one of them suddenly disappeared; search was made for him but it proved fruitless, and not until a second search was instituted was the fellow found—crouched down in the bushes with a musket in his hands and shot pouch with but one ball charge left; of course he was instantly pinned and brought to the station. The flash from a musket previously fired, was supposed to come from him, and the ball passed in close proximity to the little scouting party. The camps of the Hydahs were visited, but nothing specifically could be learned. It appears the whole shooting had been carried on amongst some half a dozen Indians, on both sides, but none of them were found injured. Mr Owen tried to pacify them at first, but without effect; one of them boldly telling him he was from the American side, had plenty of money and he intended to spend it too. It was with some difficulty that a boat was had to cross the ferry; the ferryman refused his stating they were all aground. On reaching the other side by a boat borrowed from the brig Byzantium, the story of the ferryman was seen to be incorrect, perhaps he too was afraid of a stray bullet, and thought it more prudent to put on his light and take to his hammock.

The New Mail Contract.

We hear that the terms of the new mail contract, just completed between this Colony and the California, Oregon & Mexico Steamship Company, are to the following effect: The company engages to run one direct steamer per month to this port, from San Francisco, and two ditto, by way of Portland, with extra vessels if occasion requires, as for instance, to suit the Alaska trade—all to carry our mails, for which the Colony agrees to pay the sum of \$1000 per month. The steamship owners agree to reduce the steerage fare on the direct boats from below, from the present rate, to \$15 each passenger, cabin as heretofore, \$40; rates via Portland, steerage \$20 50, cabin \$41. We shall not have much to complain of if this arrangement be strictly adhered to, and we have reason to believe that it will; for the inducement of receiving cargoes of Nainaimo coal to suit the Portland coal necessities of the Company, we think, will be an additional reason why the steamboat company should continue to run their vessels as steadily as they have been for the past six months. With the steamer Geo S Wright also plying between this port and Portland and calling at all ports on Puget Sound, our steam communication, with San Francisco and Portland will be as extended as in former days of the Colony's experience. The rate for passengers going below have not been altered any.

Mount Baker.—We have received the following communication from a friend at Olympia, detailing a portion of the practical results of Mr Coleman's ascent of the great mountain. It is to complete the arrangements spoken of in this letter, we suppose, which still detains Mr Coleman in the Territory. If ice can be shipped cheaper from Mount Baker to San Francisco than from Sitka, it will be a good paying speculation for himself and a lucky thing for Whistoom. Mr Coleman has put himself in communication with the American Government to secure for himself and a company organizing, certain rights and privileges for the working of an extensive coal field, discovered in his recent ascent of Mount Baker, and of which carboniferous deposits, denote a rich reward. Another company is also being initiated for the purpose of supplying our colony and other markets with ice from the inexhaustible supplies of the mountain. Water navigation extending up between the slopes of the mountain, at the head of which water navigation, there is a large glacier from which solid blocks of ice may be had all the year round.

Shipping.—The Penryn and Arva will soon arrive at Moody & Co's mill; Barrard Inlet, to load with lumber, the one for Aquil, South America, the other for Shanghai. The steamer Oplax arrived from the Sound on Saturday morning and left again yesterday. Her machinery and part of her hull were formerly of the old Caledonia, which so long ran in our waters. In the outer harbor yesterday, there were the Ellen, Phoenix, Dorr, West and Margaret Brander. The Ellen came direct from Port Lando for stores, &c, before leaving for Hongkong with spars. She passed the bark Bronte with lumber for the Sandwich Islands, going out to sea, and reports the weather densely thick in the Straits. The steamer Emma, Capt Roys, sailed again on Saturday morning for the whaling grounds. She towed the bark Margaret Brander out to the Royal Roads, the latter returning to the Sound to load with lumber for Tahiti.

Unwholesome Fruit.—We hear our medical authorities state that the quantities of the fruit, as apples, pears, plums, &c, brought to this market from San Francisco, are so closely boxed up as to render it unwholesome and unfit for use. The fruit after appearing as if it had been put through a steaming process. The evil will, anyway, be speedily cured; at the present time the island and mainland portions of the Colony supply large quantities of the finest of fruit, so that by and bye there will be no necessity to import this sort of produce. The fruiterers are largely supplied at this time with the finest of lemons, home grown; plums and damsons, suited for preserving, are selling in town from six cents per pound upwards.

Indians.—More rumors about dead Indians reached us on Saturday, but on learning the particulars, from competent authority, we can assure the public, no uneasiness need be felt upon this sore subject in the future. His Worship the Mayor, accompanied Sergeant Bowden in an inspection of the lower portion of the city, and satisfied himself thoroughly of the real state of things in that quarter. Provision will be made for the proper burial of the dead; and indications, it is said, laid against such landrods, with a view to get the Indians out of town, whose tenements are liable to the charge of being public nuisances. The evil requires reforming; let it be done thoroughly.

Sentinel at Last.—It is always well when a man is open to conviction. After many years foolishly resisting the truth, a San Francisco correspondent writing to the Morning News (McB Young) acknowledges at last that he and other Victorians would rather live upon half a loaf in this city than upon a whole one in San Francisco. This statement, it is presumed, is the result of recent experience; and when we recollect the author, it assumes more than casual importance. It is a fact, that a residence on this island for any length of time creates a thorough dislike for any other portion of the coast.

Saanic Roads.—We are glad to hear that the roads to Saanich, so far as the ferry, are again clear of obstruction; and by going through some of the ranches, a privilege readily granted by the owners, the settlement can be reached without much trouble. It is an imperative public necessity that the Government should immediately rebuild the bridges destroyed recently in this district by the fire. No excuse can possibly be received for shutting out so important an agricultural district as Saanich from market during the fall, at which period of the year the farmers are supposed to dispose of their produce. We trust this matter will be taken up with the proper demands.

The Enterprise arrived from New Westminster at 11 o'clock on Saturday night by Nainaimo, taking thither from the former city the Rev Mr White of the Wesleyan church who is replaced at New Westminster by the Rev Mr Browning lately of Victoria. Fifteen passengers, the mails and express from the lower country came down on the Enterprise.

Polio's Court.—On Saturday last, Mr John Howard, of Esquimalt, appeared before the Court under a charge of smuggling goods from the ship Spirit of the Age. The Attorney General appeared for the prosecution, and Mr McCreight, instructed by Mr Bishop, for Mr Howard. The case was postponed for a week on the application of Mr McCreight, under the Consolidated Customs Act of 1853, which enables the accused party to be heard, if he chooses, before a Superior Court. On Mr Bishop giving an undertaking that Mr Howard, would appear when called upon, the case was sent up for adjudication before His Honor the Chief Justice.

St John's Sunday School.—It will be in the recollection of our readers, that a concert by the St John's Choral Society, was given some time since in aid of this object. In addition to the handsome proceeds of that concert, His Lordship the Bishop, has made such a contribution, that funds sufficient are at hand to commence the building. An architect has been intrusted with the design, and it is intended to make the room suitable for lectures, or other business matters in connection with the Episcopal Church of the Colony in general.

The Telegraph.—The telegraph cables have been laid and direct communication will be re-established probably by tomorrow. Yesterday the "lines" were being tested via Saanich, between the city and the islands adjacent to Saanich, over which the line has been built.

Fire Alarm.—It has been ascertained that the cause of alarm on Friday night was the burning of the Indian woman's clothes, who was found dead in a shanty on Esquimalt street. The clothes were burned in the yard, and when the alarm bell was sounded immediately put out. This explanation ends the mystery.

New Saw Mill.—Moody & Co's new mill will commence work next Wednesday. The mill will be kept running night and day, and as it is now capable of turning out 60,000 feet every twenty-four hours, will add materially to our exports of lumber.

Disasters.—The bandmaster and one of the bandmen of the Pylades deserted on Thursday morning; it is supposed they left on the Eliza Anderson. This fact too, may account for the indifferent performance at the theatre on same evening.

From Nainaimo.—The steamer Douglas arrived in port from the East Coast settlements with twenty passengers and a small amount of produce. The Otago, and a small sloop were the only vessels at Nainaimo.

Sailed.—H. M. S. Scout sailed on Saturday morning for England, will call on the way home at the Sandwich Islands, Tahiti, and other of the South Sea Islands, thence will sail for Valparaiso and round the Horn.

Ter U. S. Saginaw.—It is said this vessel will certainly leave for Sitka this afternoon.

The Blockade of Mazatlan in Parliament.

The Earl of Denbigh rose to inquire whether it was true that a frigate was blockading the port of Mazatlan, and if so, whether such blockade had been duly authorized by Her Majesty's Council, and published in the Gazette. The noble lord remarked that, since he had penned his notice, further particulars respecting the alleged blockade had been published in the newspapers. The blockading of a port was a very important operation, and ought to be carried out in a very cautious manner. He might remark that some years ago in consequence of the blockade of Jeddah, great difficulties and complications had arisen. If the accounts of what had occurred at Mazatlan were accurate, the British Commander appeared to have behaved in an outrageous manner and to have proved himself unfit to remain in her Majesty's service. The details were thus narrated in the Pall Mall Gazette of last evening:—"The American papers to hand this morning publish the following, dated San Francisco, July 2:—Advices from Mazatlan to the 22nd June report that a serious difficulty had occurred between Commander Bridges, of the English war steamer Chanticleer, and the Mexican authorities at that place. The Chanticleer, it is said, was in a perilous position off the coast and fired signal guns for assistance. A pilot went out and released the ship from her position of danger, but the commander of the steamer refused to pay the pilot for his services and proceeded to Mazatlan. The collector of the port of Mazatlan was notified that one of the officers of the British war steamer was engaged in conveying specie on board to avoid the export duty, and caused his arrest. The officer's person was searched and a quantity of gold found upon him. The captain of the Chanticleer came ashore and in a very excited manner declared that his vessel and himself had been insulted by the indignity offered to his subordinates. High words followed, which culminated in the arrest and search of the person of the collector, who asserted his suspicion that the commander also was implicated in smuggling specie on board of his vessel. Captain Bridges then went on board of

the Chanticleer and notified the inhabitants of Mazatlan that he was about to bombard the city for the insult offered to the English flag. The captain's proclamation of hostility caused great excitement and numerous communications in writing passed between Captain Bridges, General Corona and the civil authorities. The United States Consul, Mr Session, acting as mediator, ultimately induced the British commander to modify his proclamation so as to place the port of Mazatlan under blockade so far as Mexican vessels were concerned, until he could receive orders from the British Admiral commanding on the station. American and other foreign vessels would not be interfered with. It is asserted that the action of General Corona and the Mexican authorities is approved by the foreign residents generally. The United States war steamer Swannee had left Acapulco for Mazatlan to protect the American interests in that place. The United States steamer Resaca was at La Paz on June 21. Additional advices from Mexico state that Commander Bridges at first demanded that the officer who searched the person of his subordinate and seized the money should be sent on board the Chanticleer to be dealt with as the commander saw fit. General Corona replied that sooner than submit to such an outrage he would allow the city to be bombarded and telling him, in indignant language, that if he had a reclamation to make, he should make it in the manner customary with civilized nations, and through the proper channel. He would not take up any more of their lordships' time, but would simply ask whether the Government had received any authentic information on that matter.

The Earl of Malmesbury.—In reply to the question of my noble friend I have to state that Her Majesty's Government have not received any of those details which he seems to have obtained through the American newspapers. Your lordships will judge for yourselves—for I cannot pronounce any opinion on the subject—whether those details are likely to be authentic or not. All that Her Majesty's Government have heard is that on the 4th of July the Admiralty learnt by a telegram that an outrage having been committed on some British seamen or British subjects—I know not exactly which—Captain Bridges, of the Chanticleer, took upon himself to stop the entrance of the port of Mazatlan. I quite agree with my noble friend in stating that an officer has no right on his own responsibility to commit such an act, as that. At the same time, there are circumstances which justify breaches of the law, as your lordships know. But, not knowing any of these circumstances, my opinion can be pronounced on that point. On the 10th of this month the Admiralty also received a telegraphic despatch from Vice-Admiral Hastings, saying that he had sent orders to Captain Bridges to raise the blockade. That is all that we have heard on the subject; and no other authentic intelligence has reached us. I cannot help here noticing what was said by my noble friend with respect to a very grave event which occurred some years ago at Jeddah. He seemed to think very lightly of it, and talked of some sailors being stopped, or something of that sort.

The Earl of Denbigh.—I said "morally injured." The Earl of Malmesbury.—Not only were they morally injured, but they were murdered. (A laugh.) The Turkish authorities refusing, after negotiation, to take any notice of the subject or to bring the murderers to justice, Captain Pailey, with the full authority of his Government, bombarded the town; and I have never heard before that that act of justice was found fault with either in this country or in any other part of Europe. Times, July 8th.

Coax, Aug 31.—The Co passed unanimous resolutions in favor of the Fenian prisoners. Florence, Aug 31.—Guthrie's seat in the National Parliament. The possibility of war is more than ever discussed in European journals. The ly expressed that Prussia, war desires peace; but the Prussia, peace is indisposed. French Emperor is now prepared for conflict, but his

The Liberal at Toulon who is on a visit to that city. General that the army the best spirits, and its

The financial resources of inextinguishable compared France was equally ready

Paris, Aug 31.—Gerg envoy from Madrid had the Emperor today. It object of his mission is agreement with the Emp of a European war, Spain and troops to Rome in ret French army shall sustain dynasty in Spain, should

Hamburg, Aug 31.—arrived here in his yacht Altona and Lubeck, and the Weiser this week.

London, Sept 1.—John long and eloquent address Birmingham, giving his the great questions at

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