

THE SEMI-WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 10. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1869. NO. 73.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

PUBLISHED DAILY BY
DAVID W. HIGGINS.

TERMS: Each copy 10 cts.
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Fatal Procrastination.

It is greatly to be feared that there is a disposition in this community to enact the part of the foolish virgins, in so far as a water supply is concerned. It is not many weeks since a sort of panic prevailed, consequent upon the discovery that the source of ordinary supply had given out, and that the entire community depended upon food stuff, obtained from stagnant and festering pits. Fortunately for the people the rainy season was close at hand, and the supply has since been abundant. But do people forget that summer will come again, and that the supply will once more fail? It would really appear as though they did, else they would not allow so much precious time to slip away unimproved. It should be remembered that to introduce a fresh supply of water is not the work of a few days, or weeks, or even months. It is an undertaking which will involve much capital and occupy many months; yet the first step has not been taken; the necessary preliminary survey has not been made, and it would not appear probable that the next session of the Legislature will find this community in the same state of unreadiness in which the last session left it, and thus another dry season will overtake us in the same condition of utter helplessness. We entreat the people to look this question square in the face. This year was remarkable for freedom from epidemic. Next year may be the reverse. This year the failure of the water supply only extended over a couple of weeks. Next year it will be longer—may be doubtful. This year we enjoyed remarkable immunity from fires during the dry season. Next year it may be different. But, putting all may-be on one side, the supply will, in the very nature of things, be more defective next year than it has been in the past. It has been gradually failing year by year. The Springs have failed, and Harris Pond, at no time yielding good water, is rapidly giving out. Yet it is in this condition that we are listlessly drifting into another year, with the absolute certainty of being called upon to meet the terrible realities of another and more serious water famine. It is difficult to account for such inattention. One would think that the first law of nature itself would render such fatal indifference impossible—that considerations of health and life would supply an efficient motive for the most prompt and energetic action in such a matter as this. It has been said that some of our principal property-owners are averse to the scheme for a fresh supply of water, in view of the probable heavy taxation it will involve. We are reluctant to believe that proprietors of real estate can possibly be so stone-blind, so penny-wise and pound-foolish as to take any such view of the question. What is it that imparts value to town lots but population? How can any rational person expect the presence of population where the conditions essential to its wellbeing, nay, to very existence are withheld? The owners of real estate in Victoria should, of all other classes, be most anxious to have an abundant supply of good, wholesome water brought into the city. With it this would be one of the most healthy and charming

places on the coast, and could not fail to become large and populous, and, consequently, real estate would become valuable. Without it the present population cannot possibly remain, the city cannot even retain its present status, and, consequently, real estate must become comparatively valueless. There could be no greater insanity than to imagine that we can build up a large community without a supply of wholesome water. But there would not appear to be any necessity for a water tax falling with undue weight upon real estate. The aim should be to spread the tax over the largest possible surface, in order that many hands might make light work; yet these are matters of detail with which we do not care to cumber the question now. A supply of wholesome water must be had, let the tax pinch where it may, and it appears to us that the duty of taking the initiative devolves upon the Municipal authorities. Assuredly it concerns them more to consider how the city shall be supplied with water than to be vexing themselves about deciding whether or not the 'poor widow's cow' shall be permitted to graze upon half-deserted streets.

Cariboo Mining Intelligence.

WILLIAM CREEK.—The Dutch Bill company cleaned up 65 oz last week. The McLean cleaned up 26, 23 and 41 oz for the last three weeks. A few of the hydraulic companies are preparing to drift for the winter. In the lower part of the creek only one company, the Foster-Campbell, have been getting out pay since the freshets. Last week they washed up \$400, one shift working. The Pacific Flower co's diggings, which generally paid a dividend of \$100 per week, are improving in appearance. The Ballarat tunnel is closely approaching completion and a little gold is being obtained.

SPROUT CREEK.—The Muehlo Oro on washed up 42 oz for last week's work, and on Wednesday last 18 oz for three days. The Taffvale co washed up 88 oz for the week and 18 oz for the half-week. The Floyd co. were running a new car-drive. The Jenkins co. washed up 155 oz for the week. The Combs co washed up 24 oz for the week, and 21 oz on Thursday.

CONKLIN GULCH.—The White Pine company washed up 43 oz for the week, and the Felz co 125 oz. On Wednesday last both these companies washed up about 18 oz.

DRAGON GULCH.—On Wednesday the Discovery co struck side rock in their tunnel and expect to get to bedrock under the channel in a few days. They have obtained prospects of \$5 to the oz.

NORTH FORK QUEENSLAND.—It is reported that a little excitement occurred on Keithly creek and thereabouts last week. A few men have been working on a bench or bank two miles from the China ranch, on the Keithly creek side, and it leaked out that they were doing very well, whereupon a rush on a small scale took place. —Sentinel.

THE YALE-LYTTON ELUCTION.—Elsewhere will be found a requisition presented to F. J. Barnard, Esq., by the electors of the Yale-Lytton District, and his reply thereto. There are 139 signatures attached to the requisition, and in looking over the list we do not miss the name of a single person of any prominence in the District. In fact, the desire to be represented by Mr. Barnard would appear to be as unanimous as it is earnest. It will be observed that the requisition is couched in language sufficiently emphatic and unequivocal, in so far as consideration is concerned. There can be no mistaking the attitude of the electors of the Yale-Lytton District upon that subject. It will also be seen by the reply that Mr. Barnard, although an ardent Confederate, is thoroughly patriotic to the Colony as regards terms. Altogether, we congratulate the electors of the Yale-Lytton District, upon having secured Mr. Barnard as their Representative.

THE STEAMER ENTERPRISE.—On Wednesday night, brought down 80 passengers and upwards of \$90,000 in gold dust—\$42,000 of which were for the banks—and a Cariboo mail and express. There were also on board 21 head of cattle and 41 hogs, consigned to Stanford and Hickin and J. Heywood, and a quantity of furs for the H. B. Co. The Enterprise came down via Nanaimo.

THE FARM YIELD IN THE THOMPSON RIVER VALLEY for the year is very great—larger than ever before. The valley is fully supplied with fine ground from its own wheat, and Big Bend and other mining camps also draw largely upon the valley for supplies. Mr. Fortene's grist mill at Tranquillo River is running day and night.

THE STEAMER ENTERPRISE sailed yesterday for the wreck of the ship Cowper. The ship is not insured; the cargo is. Should the weather continue fine the ship may be saved. The Enterprise returned at 6 1/2 o'clock last evening. But little hope is entertained of saving the ship. No preparations for discharging the coal have been made.

MR. DE COSMOS AND HIS PARTING BRILLIANCE.—In a long and rambling letter in last evening's paper Mr. Amor DeCosmos labors to make it appear that it is the proprietor of the Colonist, and not the Editor of District No. 2, who complain that he (Mr. DeCosmos) has refused to show proper respect by leading an address. So far from the Colonist having complained, Mr. DeCosmos, in the humble apology published by him a few days ago, acknowledged that certain letters which had provoked his ire were not written by Mr. Higgins or with his connivance. Mr. DeCosmos, last evening says—Mr. Higgins might have sent a reporter to my meetings? To do what? Does the reader think? Why, to catch the golden words that might fall from the ex-honorable's lips! Had we wished to see the ex-honorable gentleman out a more ridiculous figure than he does, we should certainly have sent a 'chell' to 'take notes.' Why alone prevented us doing so? and a like feeling has prevented us throughout the present contest from publishing a list of the voters' reports on his extraordinary paper at Oaklands, Oowichan and Metchojo. The exhibit of figures we gave the other day, amply refutes the statement Mr. DeCosmos has made in the District that last year the Colonist charged him \$20 for his address, and that his determination not to be again fleeced was the reason he does not now publish an address. We showed, conclusively, that he was charged but \$20 for an address three times the length of the addresses for which his opponents were charged \$25 each. This exhibit Mr. DeCosmos finds he cannot shake; he is not satisfied with having had his work done at half-price, he professes that 'only the other day Mr. Long, Mr. Higgins' partner, expressed surprise that I had paid the last \$30.' We have not seen Mr. Long since the letter of Mr. DeCosmos appeared; but we venture to assert that Mr. Long never expressed anything of the kind to Mr. DeCosmos or any one else; because the charges against Mr. DeCosmos were made by Mr. Long himself, during the absence from the Colony of Mr. Higgins. When Mr. Long withdrew from the Colonist, the amount of \$30 against Mr. DeCosmos was turned over to Mr. Higgins as 'good.' Five months afterwards, when it was found that Mr. DeCosmos was attempting to evade payment of what he now terms a 'debt of honor,' Mr. Long waited upon him with the recent proprietor of the Colonist and told him plainly that he owed the \$30 and ought to pay it! So much for the surprising amount of sympathy Mr. DeCosmos has extracted from Mr. Long. One more point and we have done: Mr. DeCosmos still harps on the 'extortionate' charges of the Colonist as a reason why he will not publish an address. Very well, if the charges of the Colonist are 'extortionate,' why does he not avail himself of the wide-open door of the News? Why does he not give his organ an opportunity to pipe a shrill note or two in support of the 'principles' which he professes to advocate, but which no one believes he possesses? Does the News sail in the same 'extortionate' boat with the Colonist? or does Mr. DeCosmos believe that the 'notes' of his 'organ' will not be accepted as a 'circulating medium'?

MRS. FRELPS.—It is proposed by a number of influential citizens to request the talented Mrs. Fanny Morgan Phelps to give a reading and vocal entertainment some evening next week. The idea is an excellent one and ought to be worked up.

NOT CREDITED.—The report that the bark Old Dominion had come to grief at Clifflin Bay. The bark sailed from Sooke on Friday of last week. Since then there has been no adverse weather.

THE BARK GLIMPSE will sail from San Francisco on the 14th of December. Send your orders by telegraph in time to catch her.

THE BRACKS in the wagonroad have been repaired, and wagons and stages roll unimpededly over the road daily.

THE BRIT COQUETTE sailed yesterday for Moody's mill, to load for Valparaiso.

IN BUSINESS.—Here is a scene reported from the Paris Correctional Court:—Prisoner, what were you doing on the Boulevard? I was walking there. How? At two o'clock in the morning? That is no article in the code, which says I may not walk on the Boulevard at two o'clock in the morning? Where do you live? I prefer not to answer that, on account of my creditors? What have you to say in your defence? That I have done nothing. If I have assassinated or robbed any one, let it be proved and let me be guillotined. Last night there were heaps of men walking. They were not arrested, because they had money. I having no money, am a criminal. If I had had the means of passing the night at a restaurant, nothing would be said to me. What harm if I choose to walk? Do they believe that I am wearing out the road? If so, let them condemn me for that. This is my defence? One question more: What do you do for a living? I sell second-hand tooth-picks!

A CHANCE FOR BARGAINS IN CLOTHING.—A. Gilmore, Yates street, near Government, has commenced to sell off his entire stock of ready-made clothing at cost, to close out that branch of his business, as he intends to confine his attention to Menswear Tailoring. Garments of every description made to order in the most fashionable styles at greatly reduced prices.

SIR DAVID BREWSTER shows that Euclid knew the fundamental principle of the stereoscope, which was also described by Galileo five hundred years ago. There is nothing new under the sun.

Letter from William Creek.

WILLIAM CREEK, CANADIAN, Nov. 9, 1869.
On Wednesday, Nov. 3d, after a short illness Dr. John B. Wilkinson, deceased was the son of the Rev. Henry Wilkinson, of Eglington, Canada West, at one time President of the Wesleyan Conference in that country. He graduated with honors in Toronto, taking his degree of B. A. and M. D. He afterwards attended one of the Schools of Medicine in New York. Soon after his arrival in this colony in 1859, he obtained the appointment of Assistant Surgeon to a portion of the corps of Sappers sent up to Harrison river. He did not enter upon the duty, resigning in favor of Dr. Oliver. The excitement on Fraser river drew his attention and he came up the country and mined during the winter between Forts Hope and Yale. In the spring of 1860 he came on to Birch Bar, where, with others, he brought in a ditch of considerable length. In the fall of the year he went to Keithly creek where he practised his profession. He remained there and at the Falls of the Quennelle until the opening of 1862, when he came on to William Creek. He was interested in the Dead Horse claim on this creek, and was the chief promoter of a company engaged in prospecting for quartz vein, in 1865, sunk two shafts each 40 feet deep, between Richfield and Grange creek. The rock, which he assayed most carefully, gave very promising indications. His ability as a professional man was well appreciated, and his kindly disposition made him the reliever of suffering in the afflicted. Towards his professional brethren he was always courteous and affable. The community on the creek and its environs can testify to many acts of kindness received at his hands. His early death is a source of deep regret to his friends in this country, who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance for the past 10 years.

The Victoria co on Lwheas creek paid \$1 to the pit in the grave; they have been running their tunnel through the Russell ground, and are now about to their own line. This ground, which was formerly called the Blue Jacket, has been prospected since '63.

DRAGON CREEK.—The Discovery co have struck bed rock and took out \$150 to twelve carloads. They find pieces as high as \$9; have prospects as high as \$9 to the carload.

Some men came in from Harvey creek today and report 2 feet snow on Snowshoe. Hugh Phillips, who fell down the Willow cove, on Musquito creek, is recovering slowly. He sustained some injury to the spine from the cocoon.

KATYUCK CREEK.—The No Sarsine co have been taking out 9 oz to a set of numbers. They have considerable ground without running a tunnel, as two 7-inch pumps, throwing 45 inches of water per stroke, can not keep the diggings dry. The Grotto co will work all winter washing in their tunnel; they have a flame through and have made over expense this season. The Stonewall co have made as high as 56 oz to a shift. Two members of the Taffvale co, Spout gulch, leave by this express.

HARVEY CREEK.—Laidlaw intends to hydraulic his ground next summer. The weather on William Creek is delightful. We have about a foot of snow. The foundation for the Episcopal Church is completed; it is to be built at the angle between the old trail and present wagonroad to Cameron. The front will form the main street of Barkerville; when completed it and the Bank of British Columbia, in the Masonic building, will be the two finest edifices in Barkerville. The Masonic Hall does great credit to Messrs Bruce & Mann for the manner in which it is finished.

NEW ILL.—The Wisconsin co, on Anderson creek, have some good ground, which will pay well this winter.

THE CAUSE OF THE COTTON FAMINE.
We find the following letter, which purports to furnish an explanation of the cause of the Lancashire cotton famine in the Times of a late date:—

TO THE EDITOR.—Sir—I perceive from your leader of to-day that you are still puzzled to explain the existing depression of the cotton trade of Lancashire. Let me state for your information one undoubted fact, which is the kernel of the whole question. There is in Lancashire about 85 per cent more machinery than there is raw material to work upon. This has been substantially the case ever since the American war, and ought to solve the mystery of the badness of our cotton trade, even to the uninitiated.

You may ask, how came that excess of machinery into existence? The answer to this is also simple. For some years before the American war broke out the manufacturing industry of Lancashire was very prosperous; great fortunes were made, and most of the additional capital was invested on fresh looms and spindles. Just when the war broke out the building mania was in full play, and instead of being checked by this catastrophe, it went on vigorously during nearly the whole period of the American war, and when the struggle came to an end it found Lancashire able to spin 60,000 large bales (420lb, each) of cotton per week, in place of 50,000 bales, in the year before the war. You may then ask, why the madness of building cotton mills when the future supply of raw material was so uncertain? The explanation is that the peo-

ple of Lancashire believed that the growth of cotton in the South under free labor would exceed what it was under slave labor, and that the close of the war would let loose an enormous supply of raw material. In this view they have been wholly mistaken. The supplies from America since the war, added to all the supplies from India and other countries (drawn by famine prices), have been insufficient to feed even the amount of cotton machinery that existed before the war, and utterly insufficient for the augmented amount of machinery that now exists. As a consequence it is necessary to keep idle something like a fourth of the spindles now existing, but how is that stoppage to be brought about? People not in business might imagine it could be done by voluntary combination, but I assure such persons that such combination is impossible, and the only

working there is the mere payment of profit to be got from working a spinner will keep all his machinery employed; to do otherwise is to let his capital be idle and deteriorate from rust, and nothing except severe loss in working will compel him to do this; but I have already shown that an inexorable necessity requires this to be done, and the medium through which it is accomplished is continuous, and in the end ruinous, bad trade.

The spinners of Lancashire are like a beleaguered city, with provisions for only three months, the inhabitants, each person tries to get his full share of food, the price runs up to famine point, and finally a large portion of the weaker and poorer inhabitants die of starvation. Just so it is happening in Lancashire. The spinners and manufacturers are gradually succumbing and those who were formerly strong are becoming weak. This process would eventually put the trade right if the mills of failed spinners were finally closed, but unfortunately they are often bought up at a nominal price and worked in competition with far costlier mills. Thus the excessive competition of machinery is not reduced as fast as it should be; still, the tendency is slowly and painfully in that direction.

A far easier remedy for the ill of the trade would do doubt be an adequate supply of cotton—say one to one and a half millions of bales extra every year for the supply of Europe; but this I fear cannot be expected for a considerable time, though probably the coming year will witness a decided step in that direction.

Most of the other matters imported into this question are extraneous to it, or, at all events, of secondary moment. I allude to the alleged want of demand for our manufactures, and the competition of foreign countries, &c. Were the demand for manufactures doubled just now it would only double the price of cotton, and not add a jot to the profits of the manufacturer, and, as respects European competition, continental countries are suffering from the same depression as Lancashire, and from precisely the same cause. They have extended their spinning power as fast, or perhaps even faster, than we have, and they are now, like ourselves, starved for want of raw material.

I conclude with the remark that the regulation of the cotton trade must be gradual, and will arise from the combined action of two causes—first, the wearing out of the older portion of the cotton machinery of Europe, and, secondly, an increase in the growth of the raw material, which last process I fervently hope, and fully believe, will make steady progress.

LIVERPOOL, Sept. 27. SARGENT SMITH.
At a spiritual seance in Hartford, recently, the following conversation took place between a disconsolate widow and the spirit of the departed spouse:—
Widow—'Are you in the spirit world?'
The lamented—'I am.'
Widow—'How long have you been there?'
The lamented—'Oh, some time.'
Widow—'Don't you want to come back and be with your lonely wife?'
The lamented—'Not if I know myself. It's hot enough here.'

An English contemporary is informed on the authority of a clergyman, that some of the parishioners decline to pray for the Queen, because she gave her assent to the Irish Church Bill; but one of them has adopted a severer mode of marking his sense of Her Majesty's conduct; whenever he has occasion to use a postage stamp he places the Queen's head upside down.

The Gentle Daily Reporter, of Utah, wants Mrs. Stone to come out there and write up some of the Mormon households where high officials marry two or three of their own nation.

LONDON HOUSE—ARRIVAL OF THE AUTUMN AND WINTER STOCK.—By the Active J. H. Turner & Co. received their full stock of Autumn and Winter Goods. The stock left London in September—the best guaranteed buyers at London House can have of the fashionable character of the goods. Particular attention is directed to the assortment of Dress and Millinery Goods, which is large and rich, and to the facilities at London House for Dress and Mantlemaking by experienced hands.

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