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AGENTS.

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MISAPPLIED ENERGY.

We never like to see industry misapplied It is positively painful to witness the child crying after the moon, the alchemist broiling himself in the laboratory in search of the philosopher's stone, and the eccentric manufacturer striving with might and main to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. To see so much physical force and mental energy expended in pursuits that promise nothing but disappointment is truly saddening; yet there is so much heroic persistency to be found occasionally in human nature that the oft-repeated fruitless effort forms no example, and we have men as fresh in the field to-day to do impossibilities as they were at the time of Babel. Our morning contemporary shows by example how much vigor can be misspent in assailing the elements, in trying to stem the roaring of the tempest, and in endeavoring to stop the influx of the tide. With all the pomposity, but not with that self-satisfaction which the barbaric chief must have felt when he bid the sun good morrow, and indicated with his finger the course which the celestial orb should take during the day, the *Chronicle* Jupiter attempts to remodel society, put the axis of the earth more on the perpendicular, and reform the order of creation generally. He has no single panacea, however, for all the evils and difficulties with which the universe is surrounded. The vendor of patent medicines will assure you that his nostrum will cure every "ill that flesh is heir to," but his brother professor of the *Chronicle* will apply all the nostrums that are compounded to the one disease. The country is in ill health, and to-day he prescribes a little quiet, a rest from "political agitation;" his prescription does not seem to answer, for to-morrow he tells the public that unless they take a more profound interest in politics the colony will go to the dogs. This does not prove exactly satisfactory and he calls upon the Assembly in tones of alarm to pass the Incorporation Bill of the Upper House and save the country. The bill does not pass, however, and of course the country is not saved. In mental agony he appeals to the fates to avert the Russian plague, and asks the medical members tremulously to join the chain-gang and remove the immundicity of the streets. The doctors have become the only true guardians of the city, although, unfortunately for Jupiter, there was not a member of them who voted for the Incorporation bill, when that measure was thrown out, against the remonstrances of the "two political agitating city members." The doctors killed the Incorporation bill in order, of course, that the sanitary regulations of the city should be attended to, and the *Chronicle* innocently asks them to become inspectors of nuisances and keep away disease. Well, this is perhaps on the the principle of "setting the fox to guard the geese," and we shall shortly have our perplexed contemporary crying out for the lawyers to take some steps to close the courts and put an end to litigation. The medical committee, like the other suggestions, came to nothing, and the country still continues to descend to ruin. Surely there is something to stay its course—some obstacle to put on the inclined plane that will bring it to a halt. A lucky thought—there is Mr. Rhodes' grist mill, with its ponderous machinery, there is that long line of fire-proof buildings that were to have been built, let us only get them, and the country is all right. But the grist-mill won't come on account of landing permits, and the fire proof buildings have a natural antipathy to political agitation. What is to be done, then, but to come again and belabor political agitation, and in order to be consistent call upon all the clever men—the far-seeing men like Mr. Rhodes—to come forward, take an active interest in politics, and "save the country." Anything for a grist mill, without any grain to grind; anything for a fire-proof building without any purchaser to buy.

The quack has run through his remedies, but the disease still stares him in the face; the child has cried and dried its tears but the moon still shines afar off; the crackbrained alchemist has become a shrivelled up specimen of mortality, but the *lapis philosophorum* is as distant as ever. Poor, impotent creatures! to fret and whine and struggle after the impracticable. To tell us what we have lost and what we might have had. If you hadn't struck the free port, you naughty boy, I would have brought you my pretty little grist mill and my grand houses, and I would have made you rich, so I would. A nice little nursery tale certainly, and evincing a profound knowledge of the laws that regulate trade. On what principle, we would like to know, do these sages rely, who cry in the Council and prate in the press of the political ruin of the country? Do they believe in commencing at the top and building downwards, of looking after the cope-stone before they think of the foundation? Surely there was never such drivelling uttered by maturity. It is neither the "rest and be thankful" policy, nor the averting of the Russian plague, nor the committee of doctors to hold an autopsy, nor Mr. Rhodes and his grist-mill, nor the Hudson Bay Company and their wharf, that is going to build up Victoria, and spread prosperity throughout the colony, but it is the gold miners of Cariboo, and the men who are quietly developing the resources of Vancouver Island. Our greatness cannot be imported. All the grist-mills on the continent, and all the fire-proof buildings in the world, when once up, would not afford us in themselves a single source of wealth. When men, therefore, tell us that such and such things would have been done if we had kept only quiet and allowed the rottenness of the country to have gone on unchallenged, they are talking more like children than persons of mature years. When buildings and mills are in demand they will be put up without the aid of any particular individual or party; when they are not in demand no person, not even, we presume, Mr. Rhodes, will think of erecting them. The laws of supply and demand fortunately regulate all these affairs, and not the whims of individuals. The old system is gradually playing itself out, and the sooner its lingering illness is terminated the better for all parties, not even excepting its two doughty but rather vaccillating champions in the Council—Messrs. Finlayson and Rhodes. The news which we publish to-day of the brilliant success of the Cariboo mines promises a speedy reaction in our condition. In a few days we shall probably have glowing accounts from our own auriferous localities, and an additional stimulus will be given to industry and trade. In the meantime we would advise our contemporary to keep calm and not be too eager to remodel the world,—grist mills and doctors are very good things in their way, but they are not the *summum bonum* of a colony's existence.

SUICIDAL.—The following appeared in the *Seotsman* of March 30th. If correspondents will insist upon painting such dismal and in great measure *false* pictures to their friends at home, it is not to be wondered at that they succeed in putting an effectual stop to all immigration, check commercial enterprise, and inflict an injury on the country which recoils on themselves and hurts everybody else.

SIR,—A notice appeared in your paper a few days ago which would lead the unwary to suppose that all is prosperity in British Columbia, and gold at Cariboo is as plentiful and as easily got at as blackberries.

Permit me to give you a sentence or two from a letter just received from an honest Scotch mason, who did "middling" at the mines last year, and who would tell me "nothing but the truth:"—

"This has been a woeful year in Cariboo; it is nearly played out. All the 'flats' are completely abandoned. The famous Jack of Clubs, from which so much was expected, is a dead fizzle. The half of the men had to leave the mines and go to the low country for want of work; and wages, which always were $10 a day, were reduced to $80 per month, with board.

"The journey down to Victoria, of 600 miles, was very severe, walking in the snow. The number of dead broke men who can't get anything to do is large. I gain a trifle by shoe-mending; but business is very flat indeed."

Of the grand discovery of gold in Vancouver's Isle my correspondent says:

"Gold has been discovered on this island, which will do the country a great deal of good, although it has cost more money, five times over, to get what little gold has been yet got."

I am, &c., FAIR PLAY.

Later by Telegraph.

[TELEGRAPHED TO THE COLUMBIAN.]

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7th—The military commission in the Salvadore piracy case convened again to-day to hear the argument of counsel for the prosecution in reply to that of the defence. President Hillyer opened the argument, replying to statements made by counsel for defence, which he said were absolutely and totally false. He showed up the utter falsity of their position, and quoted numerous authorities on the point to sustain him. Judge Delos Lake followed by a telling speech, completely overthrowing the plausible argument of the opposing counsel. He dwelt at some length on the legal bearing of the case, the question of jurisdiction and legality, with other technical objections that had been strongly urged. Mr. Pixley eulogised the Confederate navy, and claimed that they had conducted their warfare in a humane spirit and without bloodshed.

Preliminary examination into the attempted stealing of the steamer Colon was conducted in court last evening, and parties held to answer before the county court, with bail fixed at $2000 each.

The Mayor has called a meeting to be held to-morrow evening for the purpose of taking measures for the celebration of the coming 4th of July.

The gathering of graduates of College and other institutes of learning at Oakland surpassed in numbers that of last year.

The society of associated aliens of the Pacific coast was duly organised, J. W. Devinnelle being elected President for the ensuing year.

A new bank, the London and San Francisco Bank, with a capital of £1,000,000 in £10 shares, is to be established here at an early period. Ex-Congressman Milton S. Latham, now en route to this city from the East, is, we understand, to be invested with the management of the institution in this city, while Jules May, formerly of Davidson & May, will represent the bank in London, England.

Arrived—Brother Jonathan from Victoria, with $347,000 in treasure.

SEATTLE, June 7—Steamer Sierra Nevada leaves San Francisco for Portland and Victoria this evening.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7—Mining stocks somewhat weaker to-day.

Legal Tenders 76½.

Flour—Fair jobbing trade for local and interior consumption at nominal prices.

Wheat—Some demand for Sacramento, but beyond a sale of 400 sacks, handsome seed understood at 4½c per lb., we hear of no movement.

Barley now is nominally $1 @$1 12½ for old; we hear of sales of 500 sacks of feed at $1 45, and 200 ditto to arrive, private; 200 ditto brewing at $1 67½.

Hay—Small cargo order, old, brought $11.

Oats—170 sacks at $1 50 @ 2 00; 155 do at $1 60.

Wool—Sales 100 bales medium to fair No. 1 sold at 21c@22½c.

Rice—We note sales 900 mats of No. 2 China at 9½c @ ½c, and 200 mats No. 1 at 10¾c per lb.

Sugar—Further sales 150 kegs No. 1 Hawaiian at 12½c per lb.

THE DREDGER AND ITS ADVOCATES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST—SIR,—I hope you will favor me with space in your valuable paper to insert some remarks I have to make touching the debate in the House of Assembly on Friday respecting the Dredger. Something like three months have passed away since steam has been got up in that craft, and all the expenses with the exception of ship stores have been going on all that time. The cause why some members of the House so strenuously endeavor to keep these useless expenses going would if they were known be rather instructive. Dr. Trimble urged that the whole matter be postponed till a thorough examination of the entire subject be made—that the public have come to the conclusion that the superintendent of the dredger was inefficient, and it was due to him that the condition and suitability of the apparatus should be thoroughly tested. The House should not condemn a man before giving him a fair hearing.

I think, Mr. Editor, this sort of scheming is about played out. Just look at the iniquity of the thing; in endeavoring to while away time on the principle that the more days' delay the more days' pay. Doctor, if you want to know about the machinery on board the vessels you will have to call on competent persons who have the experience to judge. And I may tell you for your information that the machinery on board both vessels will bear any inspection you or any of your clique may choose to call for. Mr. Dennes says the report of the Committee is one-sided. Well, the only one-sided part of the affair is having officers from the fleet when there were numbers of practical engineers among the taxpayers. The question however to be considered is not the superintendent, but in what state was the machinery when he took charge of it, and in what state did the Committee find it. They found broken parts, and parts breaking, and parts doubled up.

Poor Dr. Trimble and Mr. Dennes. They had better take good advice and for the future have nothing to do with steam or steam inspectors; for in a little time they will find steam too hot for them.

There is but one opinion in the colony respecting the dredging operations, and that goes with the members of the House who have called on the Governor to suspend immediately all the expenses until the operations can be carried on successfully and economically. STEAM.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

By the arrival of the Sir James Douglas on Friday, from New Westminster, we are in receipt of Thursday's *Columbian*, from which we clip the following:

Later from Kootenay.

Mr. J. F. Allison arrived at Hope on Sunday last with his pack train from Princeton. Mr. Allison experienced no difficulty in crossing the Cascade Range. The news from the Kootenay mines, although containing nothing definite, is of a very encouraging character. Several new strikes had been made, and the utmost confidence was everywhere expressed. Mr. Allison would start out with his animals loaded for the Kootenay market. It was stated that Jones & Co., who started out a few days ago with a loaded pack train, had experienced some difficulty on the summit, owing to the path which was recently opened through the snow having diverged from the road. We understand that their animals were somewhat overladen, yet the road would not appear to be quite as good as it was hoped.

FROM YALE.—The steamer Lillooet came in from Yale on Tuesday. Barnard's stages started out for Cariboo on Monday morning with five passengers, amongst whom were J. D. Walker, Esq., Manager of the Bank of British Columbia, and Captain Irving, of the steamer Reliance. Mr. Walker goes to Cariboo for the purpose of inspecting the branch banks there, while Captain Irving goes to Spence's Bridge, in which he is understood to be a sleeping partner. The funeral of Mr. McCall, whose death we announced on Tuesday, took place on Monday afternoon. The attendance was large, and Mr. Charles, H. B. Co. Factor, in the absence of a clergyman, read the funeral service. During Saturday, Sunday, and Monday the flags were all half-mast, in token of respect for the deceased, who was highly esteemed. In the course of the evening a purse of something over $400 was raised for the distressed widow, indicating at once the high estimation in which the family was held and the extreme liberality of the good people of Yale.

CATTLE FOR CARIBOO.—The steamer Lillooet, before leaving Yale on Tuesday morning, ferried ninety head of cattle over—a drove brought from Oregon by Mr. Dawson, and intended for the Cariboo market.

THE ESCAPED CONVICT.—The Chief Constable went up to Chilliwhack yesterday, with an assistant, for the purpose of re-capturing the rascal who affected his escape from the chain-gang a few weeks ago.

THE INSTITUTE.—The machinery is being taken out of the mint building, preparatory to fitting it up for the projected Institute and reading room.

GOOD NEWS FROM CARIBOO!

Big Strikes on Williams Creek!

FLOUR DOWN TO 32 CENTS!

The *Columbian* of Saturday has the following exciting news from the mines:

By Mr. James McCulley, who arrived from Cariboo last night, we have obtained the following highly interesting information.

The weather continued favorable, and mining operations were being vigorously and successfully prosecuted. Nearly all the claims were paying well, and several rich strikes had been made. The Aurora struck pay on Thursday, taking out four hundred and fifty-seven ounces. The Diller struck pay on the same day, taking out 125 ounces. On Wednesday, the 31st ult., the Bank took in seventeen hundred ounces in two hours. There is not a man idle who is willing to work, and more men are wanted. Flour had fallen to 32 cents and other articles in proportion.

On Cunningham Creek mining operations are being vigorously carried on, and a number of claims are paying well.

The greatest confidence pervades the entire community, and every one seems in excellent spirits. Provisions are going forward in large quantities, and the roads are in excellent condition with the exception of that portion in the "green timber." A great scarcity of men to work the mines is anticipated, as new diggings are opened up.

The first number of the *Cariboo Express* will be down by the express.

EXTREMELY FUNNY—HEAVY ON LATIN.—A correspondent having worried him in relation to the literal meaning of *Sic Semper Tyrannis*, the editor of the San Jose *Mercury* gets mad and says: "We do not deem it essential that a man should understand Dog Latin, Chinese or Choctaw, to be able to edit a newspaper with passable ability. A little common sense, some impudence, a fair sprinkling of general knowledge, and a good pair of scissors, comprise the chief stock in trade. Our knowledge of Latin does not extend much beyond *hic, hæc, hoc, fiat justitia, tempus fugit*, and *O tempore! O, Moses!* We intend to take up the *dead* languages after we 'shuffle off this mortal coil,' and have the time to spare; for the present, matters pertaining to the *living* engross our entire attention." He then takes off his coat, and proceeds to explain the occult meaning of the words, thus: "*Sic*, thus; *semper*, always; *tyrannis*, tyranny!" It will be obvious to the scholar that though familiar with the course of a good many *hard cases*, the excellent editor has not encountered the *ablative*.

A NEW GUNPOWDER is said to have been manufactured in Germany, which has three times the explosive force of that now in use, and costs only half as much to make. The principal materials used are resin and chlorate of potash.

TO PHELIM O'GRADY, BALLYCUMGRAWN, Co. DOWN.

KNOCKDUNDERUMDOURISH CASTLE,
Interior V. I.

DEAR PHELIM,—Afther me three years' peragrinnashuns, ⅓ of which I spint in makin observations of things in gineral, I take this unfaverable opportunity of writin these few lines to yez, hopin to find yez and all my frinds a taste betther imployed thin I am at prisent here, stuck in the mud six months out of the twelve, afeerd to go out afther nightfall without a peeler's dark lanthorn stuck in my frunt.

In the first place we have our House of Lords and Commons, wun thing in which we have the advantage over yez; faith I sed advantage, howsomesniver dont mind that, we are all liable to missthakes some time or thether. Of ther karrackthur—the Lords and Commons I mane—I know but very little; yit I bleve a Cork butther tasther wud be inclined to pronunse thim thurd quality, the ballance o' power bein like Christ Church in Cockfighters lane, all awan side. Yis, Phelim, afther seven months, three weeks an a fortnite pickin and choosin, the've made a cuple o laws: wun o' these things they call the miekanicks lain law, an indeed shute the poor d—ls are lain enuff alreddy; but didnt the House o' Lords with its lordly ancesthrall contimpt, giv it a kick that put it far beyant the reach o the mighty spirits who had the good-nathured considerashun of ther fello-crathurs more to hart than thim ov the Upper Story. Be all the nobs on a gallon o' black berris Phelim, a more refined tuch wasn't givin since Donnybrook fare was five an twinty years ago, an be me sowkins you know Phelim ye gav many a nate tuck there yerself afore Mrs. Phelim was mother o' Ted. But faith Phelim, the nicest trick of all was the eddikation move, for afther various recitations from our darlint Burke, Sheridan, an not forgitten poor ould Dan, the Assimbly sint it nately dished an complated to the "upper tin," whin afther it had underwint a multiplicashun of changes and exchanges, it was ultimately transformed into wun of the most butiful ingradients that iver dun oner to a Quack's pistil an morther in the classikal regin of Skinner's row. Ochone, Phelim, but shure it was the ould kwestin that nearly occashioned the d—l's shindy among the wiseakers, for some of the stale eoves wanted the Holy Writ wid its six hunred misthranslashuns, to be the *systema* of a commarshal eddekashun.

What a purty toy is a gorsoon's paw!

But the Lords sittled the matther by lavin it purty nearly all to the Guvernur and the Boord of Eddicashun, which latther consists of nine butifully selectid mimbers from the Church of England.

The Cathoncks wor numbered among the things that used to be, for they say they wor tachin the imps o' the grove nine and twenty years afore any other tradesman come to lind thim a hand; an bad cess to me if iver they thot of thim chaps "Methodie" afore or sinse. Howsumdiver it wud be dacint to think o' wuns nabors betimes. Yis, be me soukins, I think it will cause a flustrifikashun or a strong wakeness (as poor Misthress Maloney used to call it) among a sartin portion of the folks; be it known to you, Phelim avic, that ivery man's abdimin is gone up the spine on a sarch warrant to know the cause of it all. I will sind you more purtiklirs in my nixt—at prisint it wud be injewdishus to the animal pershun of me body corporal, as I'm invited to stritch me pramblulathurs undher a nabors dale boord. Shud timber an turf bisniss take ye acrass to Lundin you mite drap into our third relashun—for there's a grate Tycoon consaved here an shortly expekted to be brot forth—an if he hes ani undher-han messidge relatin to his last in regard o' the reserv, I wud ——— the dickins a step further I can go, Phelim, for a bruthur docthor on urhent bisniss hes run away with me lixikon, lavin him in the posesiv an me in the shuperlativ case, an not that I wud be the furst to minshun it, but our nashonal guardyans (Moryagh, ye know the translashun) are in the ascindincy. Tell me in your nixt what time ye have hi wather at Dublin bar.

I remain yours in haste,
JIM O'REGAN,
Doothor o' Law and Logik.

P.S.—Don't forgit to tell me counthry cousins from the barony o' Tommolaghne, in the county Latrim, that was thinkin o' comin out here by the nixt konvayance, not to sell the pigs an praties, as we've got no tinent right here at prisint. The only good lately done is killin the rinosorous that was atin all our substance away in Victoria harbor.

J. O'R., L.L.D.

A CHEAP DREDGER.—A gentleman who recently visited Portland and may be considered an unquestionable authority, informs us that the Portland Municipality contracted with a builder (who placed himself under satisfactory bonds) to construct a dredger and three mud punts, for deepening the Willamette bar; and undertook, moreover, within the space of six weeks from the completion of the craft, to remove so many thousand cubic feet of mud as a guarantee of what the machinery could accomplish, *all for the sum of nineteen thousand dollars!*

IMPROVEMENTS AT NEW WESTMINSTER.—Within the last few months great improvements are noticeable in the sister capital. A large tract of dense wood on the slope in the outskirts of the city has been cleared, and several dwelling houses have sprung up in different directions. Streets are being graded, and Columbia street is being much improved by the earth removed from the streets above being carried down a tramway incline and thrown into the hollow at the western end, which when filled up will add considerably to its length.