

**Municipal Taxation.**

The present is not a time in which to place new burthens on the backs of the people, no matter how laudable the object sought to be attained may be. Immediately upon the arrival of Governor Seymour, the Customs' Law of British Columbia will extend to this Colony, and our people will not only have to meet the advanced rate on all goods entered from foreign ports, but they must, in addition, pay the one per cent. tax on real estate, one-half of one per cent. on all merchandise sales, the salary tax, the liquor license, and host of special taxes. It will therefore be seen at a glance how heavy the taxation in this Colony will be until the Legislative Council shall have met and relieved us of direct taxation—and even when they have done so, any action they may take can not have a retrospective effect, and apply to the taxes for the present fiscal year. So that our people will really be doubly taxed for some months, for, in addition to the direct taxes now levied in this Colony, we will pay the indirect taxes now levied in British Columbia—which are in themselves sufficiently heavy to crush all who have to pay them. In the midst of the present financial distress—with banks contracting and houses falling—with \$20,000 of last year's colonial taxes still unpaid—with another large amount of unredeemed real estate, sold a year ago, about to be forfeited for the non-payment of the one per cent. rate—and with the Sheriff pressing and distraining to collect old taxes—along comes the Municipal Council with a by-law levying new taxes, by which they hope to draw \$8000 from the citizens of Victoria for the improvement of streets and side-walks, and the support of the Fire Department. So far as the last-named institution is concerned, we think that the proposed rate on insured property for its support an excellent one; but the other taxes are simply absurd. Talk of drawing blood from a stone! It would be an easy task compared with an attempt to collect additional taxes from an already over-burthened people. What the Corporation could be thinking of when they sat quietly down to arrange the sections and pass the bye-law, we cannot imagine. Perhaps they thought the cry of hard times a mistake; or perhaps they imagined that each tax-payer was the fortunate possessor of Aladdin's lamp, which he had only to rub to procure the funds necessary to meet the demand. At any rate, whatever wild notions they may have entertained of the resources of our people, they have only to attempt to collect the rate to ascertain how utterly it is out of the power of that patient pack-animal—the people—to bear another feather's weight. Support the Fire Department, by all means; with the efficiency of that institution destroyed, the security of our lives and property against the ravages of the fiery element would be gone. The tax on insured property will be sufficient for that purpose. But we can better afford to rumble over ruts, to wade through mud, and to trip over the ends of protruding planks for a short time longer—or until the new system of Government is fairly underweigh, and we are made aware of what we have to provide for—than to put our heads in our already depleted pockets and pay \$8000 to provide for that which in flush times would be very desirable, but which, in hard times, like butter on the poor man's bread, becomes a luxury that can easily be dispensed with.

**Mexico.**

The telegraph announces that the Juarez Government has granted to United States the important Mexican Provinces of Sonora and Chihuahua, and that preparations are being made by the United States Government to take possession of the ceded Territory. The consent of the usurper Maximilian to the grant will not be asked, and it is not at all unlikely that within

the next thirty days we shall receive intelligence of his abdication. To Americanize Mexico is the wisest policy that can be adopted for the good of that unhappy country and for the sake of humanity. As Mexican Provinces, Sonora and Chihuahua have been the scene of anarchy and civil strife. As an American State, a decade will not elapse before they will have become great, prosperous and well ordered communities. Sonora is the largest Mexican province. Its area is 100,000 miles; but its population is only 139,374. Its western shore is washed by the Gulf of California; it is bounded on the south by the Mexican State of Sinaloa; on the north by the American Territory of Arizona; and on the east by Chihuahua. The last-named province, which has also been ceded, lies between Sonora and the American State of Texas; its area is 83,512 miles, and its population is 164,000. About one-half of the population of each province are Indians, who are exceedingly troublesome. This cession opens to us Americans a highway to the Gulf of California. Both States are rich in minerals, and offer a new field to the enterprise and energy of the universal Yankee nation.

**LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.**

**Friday, Nov. 2.**  
**THE PRIZE FIGHT AT CARIBOO.**—A gentleman who witnessed the pugilistic encounter between George Wilson, (English) and George Baker, (Canadian) has favored us with the following particulars: The fight commenced at 11 o'clock a. m., on Tuesday, 23rd ult., on the Government Reserve, about two miles back of Camerontown, in the presence of 1000 persons. Both men looked well when stripped, Wilson showing great muscular power; he is a little taller than Baker; his fighting weight is 205 pounds, he is about 45 years of age, has bow-legs, is cross-eyed, and sports a bald head. Wilson came into the ring looking good-natured and smiling, while Baker looked anxious and irritable. Wilson was seconded by Fred Littler, and Baker by John Tracy. Baker won the choice of position and chose the corner with his back to the sun. For eighteen minutes after advancing for the first round, the pugilists feinted and dodged; at the end of that time, both struck simultaneously—Baker catching Wilson on the nose and drawing first blood; after exchanging a few blows, Baker was knocked down. Each subsequent round was in Wilson's favor—Baker was invariably knocked down. Every blow that Wilson administered was telling, while Baker's blows appeared to have hardly any effect on Wilson. After the 8th round Baker did not strike a blow, but was knocked over like a nine-pin. On the 13th round, Baker came up looking very weak and was instantly felled by a blow in the side and lay motionless, in which condition he was carried home. The fight lasted 53 minutes. It was said that two of Baker's ribs were broken in the last round. Wilson's chest was slightly discolored and his nose bloody, which was all the damage he received and he walked back to town. Wilson, it is reported, is on his way down to fight Joe Eden.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.**—On Monday an inquest was held at Dawson's whale fishery, in Shawanigan, over the body of James, a Kanaka, who was killed on Salt Spring Island, on Saturday last, by Alexander Donaldson, during a dispute about a boat. A. C. Anderson, Esq., J. P., acted as Coroner. It appears that a fellow named George Phillips (now in jail) and a Dane, came to the whale fishery on Friday, with a boat containing two kegs of Indian brandy. Mr Dawson objected to the men staying there for the night, but on their placing the liquor in his charge, he consented to allow them to remain; in the morning, one of three Kanakas in Dawson's employ, with Phillips and the Dane, placed the kegs of brandy in one of the fishing boats, and after stealing a quantity of provisions, started for the American side; they were pursued by Dawson, Donaldson and the two remaining Kanakas, and overtaken at Salt Spring Island. Phillips was seized, and the Kanaka and the Dane ran to an Indian village, and hid in one of the lodges. Donaldson was sent to the village by Dawson to procure a rope with which to tie Phillips, when (according to the evidence of a half-breed and an Indian) he was attacked by the Kanaka, who threw him down and attempted to strangle him; the scuffle lasted several minutes, and was ended by Donaldson, who stabbed and killed his antagonist almost instantly. Donaldson then jumped into the boat and with the Dane, pulled away towards the American shore. The above facts were elicited from witnesses examined before Mr Anderson, and the jury returned a verdict that the killing was done in self defence.

**COMOX.** This year send to market 25 head of young beef cattle and a large quantity of small stock—to say nothing of the vegetables, cereals, poultry, eggs and butter brought down by the Douglas on each trip. The whole East Coast is looking up. As a farming section it is not inferior to the best land on Puget Sound.

The steamer Active will leave San Francisco for Victoria to-morrow, at 10.

**The Return Intercolonial Rifle Match.**

The return match between ten of the New Westminster and ten of the Victoria Rifle Corps, came off yesterday at the butts and resulted in a victory for the New Westminster Riflemen, who have won three out of four matches with our Volunteers. The day was overcast and gloomy and towards the afternoon a mist commenced gradually to obscure the target but altogether the weather was as favorable as could be expected at this time of year. The Riflemen arrived on the ground at 9 a. m., and the New Westminster ten having won the toss, opened the ball at the first range of 200 yards. Their performances at this distance were not equal to their former efforts at the same range and they only scored 127 points. Ensign Wolfenden, who subsequently fired with great accuracy and precision, and made the highest score of the day (59) appeared somewhat nervous and unsteady at the outset. His score at 200, was only 12 against 16 at 300 yards, the same at 400 yards and 15 at 600 yds. The Victorians at the first range, shot steadily and scored 143 points, Private Soar making 17, Private Newbury 16, and Corporal Ensign 16 points; their opponents thus had a deficit of 16 points to make good. At 300 yards, New Westminster fired more steadily than Victoria, making 116 points to 102 and reducing the deficit to two points. The Victorians at this range fired very indifferently, not making within 22 points as many as they scored at the next range.

The firing party and friends present, then adjourned to refreshments in an adjoining cottage and in the course of an hour, the shooting was resumed by New Westminster, all feeling a conviction that it would be a close contest at the last two ranges. At 400 yards New Westminster shot 105 points, averaging nearly a centre to each shot. Private Scott at this distance, made 19 points, consisting of four bull's eyes and a centre, the highest made at any range. The total score of New Westminster was 130. The Victorians at 400 yards, fell behind and scored only 124, leaving their opponents four ahead. At this range the best shooting was made by Private Roscoe, 17 points, consisting of 3 bull's eyes, a centre and outer. At 600 yards, every shot was eagerly watched and counted, as the result of the contest depended upon the steadiness of the firing at the final range. New Westminster closed with 70 points, leaving Victoria 75 to win. At this time the fog placed Victoria somewhat at a disadvantage, nevertheless the score went steadily up until it had nearly reached the required number and the hopes of the Victorians, who considered the day lost, were reviving. Three shots more with a centre each, would gain the day. Nobody spoke, but the ominous silence made the marksmen upon whom the issue rested, still more anxious and nervous. Bang! centre no, a miss! "Come in" whispered one "Two bull's eyes will do" exclaimed another. "Can't be did" said a third. Bang! bang! Two outers; and Victoria three behind with 440 against 443. It is but fair to state here, that a disputed centre hit in the early part of the contest, which would have made the match a tie, was conceded by the Victoria marker. These aggregates do not equal the recent match at New Westminster, where Victoria made 464 against 452, but this may be accounted for by an inferior range and the dullness of the weather. The result of these matches confirms the opinion entertained by competent judges of the superiority of the short Enfield over the long. The firing terminated at about 3:30 p. m., the Hon. Administrator Young, and several ladies in carriages being present at the time. The Victors having been complimented in the usual way by the vanquished, rode back to town. The following is the score:—

**NEW WESTMINSTER.**

Yds	Yds	Yds	Yds	Tot
Ensign Wolfenden.....	12	16	15	43
Private J. C. Brown.....	17	10	16	43
" W. H. McCrea.....	19	10	11	40
" G. Williams.....	10	16	9	35
" J. Burr.....	10	12	10	32
" C. Good.....	13	18	14	45
Corp. Franklin.....	11	15	13	39
Private J. Gomer.....	16	12	9	37
" J. T. Scott.....	16	12	10	38
" R. Butler.....	14	10	12	36
Grand Total.....	443			

**VICTORIA.**

Yds	Yds	Yds	Yds	Tot
Adjutant Vinter.....	15	18	8	41
Private J. Wilson.....	14	15	12	41
Corporal English.....	16	11	16	43
Private Kennedy.....	12	8	10	30
Private Bonney.....	12	8	15	35
Sergeant Woolcott.....	8	10	11	29
Private Soar.....	17	7	15	39
Private Allison.....	15	16	11	42
Private Newbury.....	16	16	9	41
Corporal Roscoe.....	12	9	17	38
Grand Total.....	440			

**Markers and Scorers**—Messrs. McIlwain and Pattison for New Westminster, and Peel and Widdowson for Victoria.

**THE DINNER.**

At 7 o'clock the guests from New Westminster and some invited friends were entertained at dinner in the Drill hall, which was dressed for the occasion with flags and transparencies. The chair was occupied by Captain Wood; the vice-chairs by Lieut. Moorehead and Ensign Drummond. On the right of the chairman sat the Hon. Administrator of the Government W. A. G. Young, Rev. Sheephanks, Lieuts. Pearce and Gillon; on the left, Ensign Wolfenden, of the New Westminster Volunteers, Chaplain

Somerville, H. Wakeford, Esq., Auditor; and Adj. Vinter. The band, under Mr Haynes, was in attendance and performed appropriate music. After the feasting, of course came the toasting—the Queen, the Prince of Wales and rest of the Royal Family were proposed by the chair, and received with due honors; then followed the Administrator of the Government in connection with the late Governor, which was drunk with much enthusiasm; Mr Young responded in his usual happy vein. The health of the New Westminster Volunteers was received with equal warmth, and was neatly acknowledged by Ensign Wolfenden; the band giving "Union right or wrong." Hon. Mr Young proposed "Our Sister Colony," in an excellent speech which called forth loud applause; Private Good, N. W. V., replied, regretting that Union had been so long delayed. The Army and Navy was given by Lieut. Moorehead, and acknowledged by Mr Young, the chairman, stating that Admiral Denman regretted his inability to attend. The chairman also excused the absence of members of the bench and bar, and proposed the health of Revd's Somerville and Sheephanks coupled with the Clergy; the reverend gentlemen respectively returned suitable replies. The Press, to which is due much of the success of the Volunteer movement, proposed by Adj. Vinter, responded to by Private Long, V. R. V. The Ladies, by Private Good, acknowledged by Privates Toller, V. R. V. and Connell, N. W. V. The Victoria Volunteers, especially the ten, by Ensign Wolfenden, N. W. V., the Chair replied, also Lieut. Pearce and Adj. Vinter. Ensign Wolfenden of the N. W. V., by the Adjutant of the Victoria Volunteers. The markers and scorers, by Private Good, acknowledged by members present. The Chairman, by Lieut. Moorehead, acknowledged by Capt. Wood, Song, sentiment, and Volunteer toasts agreeably occupied the rest of the evening.

**ASSAULTING THE FAIR SEX.**—A man named Tom Moore (not the Poet), was charged in the Police Court with assaulting a Stekin kioochman named Kitty, by striking her on the face. Moore pleaded guilty, but said that the woman had \$250 from him to buy meat with, but purchased a bottle of whisky instead, and got "beastly tight." Kitty attempted to strike him with a hatchet, and he thereupon struck her with the back of his hand. Inspector Welch gave the accused a very bad character, and the magistrate sentenced him to pay a fine of \$20, or to suffer two months' imprisonment.

**THE CONQUERING MATCH.**—It has been suggested, as the Enterprise will not leave for New Westminster until 12 o'clock tonight, that advantage should be taken of the presence of the New Westminster marksmen, to shoot off the conquering match of the season, to-day. The idea seems practicable enough, and in order that the riflemen might witness the cricket match, two ranges might decide the match instead of four. The idea is worth consideration.

**MARSH'S BENEFIT.**—Mr Marsh is making great preparations for his benefit night, next week. Magic fairy bowlers and other novelties never before attempted here, will be introduced in the extravaganza of the "Babes in the Wood." The force of the two Bonny-castles is one of Morton's best, and teems with fun.

**WHALEFISHING.**—A few days ago Mr Dawson struck and killed three whales, near Saanich Inlet, but was compelled to abandon them owing to a heavy wind. No whales have been taken this year at Saanich.

**DOG-FISHING.**—A party of fishermen are engaged in the profitable business of catching dogfish in Saanich Inlet and extracting the oil. The catch thus far has been heavy and the quantity of oil obtained very great.

**CONCEALED WEAPONS.**—Jim, a Bella Bella Indian, was charged yesterday with carrying a large pistol concealed about his person. He was remanded for enquiry.

**THE LAST CHANCE.**—This is the last day on which lands sold for taxes on November 2d, 1866, can be redeemed.

**THE CRICKET MATCH.**—The Intercolonial Cricket Match will take place this day on the ground at Beacon Hill.

The Enterprise will not start for the Fraser until 12 to-night.

**Licensing Court.**

**BEFORE THE STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE, THE MAYOR AND COL. FOSTER, J. P.**

**TRANSFERS.**

**ST. GEORGE HOTEL.**—Mr Jackson applied for a transfer of the license of this Hotel from L. A. Bendixen to E. C. Holden. Mr Bishop, on behalf of Mr Bendixen and the official assignee, concurred, and the transfer was granted.

**VICTORIA HOTEL.**—Transfer from Lawrence to Richardson, granted.

**UNION.**—Transfer from Newberger to Jeffery & Mills, granted.

**ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL.**—Transfer from N. C. Matthiessen & Co. to Peter Matthiessen, granted.

**RENEWALS.**

**OCCIDENTAL—O. Chivilich.**  
**ORLEANS' HOUSE—John Buckley.**

**Letter from Lillooet.**

**LILLOOET, Oct. 24, 1866.**  
Messrs Editors.—In my letter on the Lillooet election, I was made to say the original and only genuine city of Lillooet voted on the winning side, evidently a misprint, for "city" read "Fritz," and then you will have an item really worth the knowledge of the world. Flour is ruling here: extra brands, \$7 75 per 100 lbs., far cheaper than ever known before; all of this season's produce. About three hundred thousand pounds is on hand which amount will be probably increased one-half by Christmas. It may not be generally known that the quantity of flour produced by the two mills in this town, and that at Dog Creek, on the Fraser, in this district, will, with a very little help from the outside markets, be sufficient to support the wants of the whole upper country until wheat comes in again. This works quite a change in commercial matters. All from the steamboat men to the wharfinger, will "slip up" on former earnings. The Government tolls will be fully fifty thousand dollars less on produce raised, in what is termed the Lillooet district, on the two main staples of the working miners—flour and beans; of the latter, I believe all have found a ready market. While we can commiserate with the wharfingers & Co., getting "steamed" in their receipts, there is the satisfaction of having the current value of six to seven hundred thousand pounds of breadstuffs held by our people, who have hitherto been obliged to remit a much larger sum yearly for a foreign article.

The attention of the United Colonies may perhaps soon wake up to the fact of the substantiality of this section. While commercial men have been "caving" all over the country, our farmers have been gradually building up a consolidated affluence. We have perhaps fifty thousand dollars in various mill property, and on some ranches as much as sixty thousand dollars have been spent in improvements. Add to these the value of the yearly increase on live stock, and if you do not come to the conclusion that we are the making in embryo of a great people, you and your humble servant won't agree.

W. E. W.

**General News Agent.**

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**A New Pacific Railroad.**

The State of Sonora, which its eastern neighbor, Chihuahua, the telegraph tells us is absorbed by the American, is one of the richest mineral of the Empire. Gold, silver, copper, iron, etc., are all abundant there, but owing to the state of anarchy in the unhappy country has been left from time immemorial, raids of Indians, its mineral have been but little developed. Spanish rule, several rich strikes were opened; but after the yoke had been thrown off, they fell into the hands of the the Gandara and Peco the Apache tribe of Indians, which resulted from the quarrel—swept the interior State as with a fiery besom, ing destruction on all sides murdering the inhabitants of them off into a state of hopelessness. For this reason, the abandoned and nearly the interior given up to the Guaymas is the main port of distant 90 miles Guaymas, terior, and has 40,000. The houses are built of adobe (dried bricks) and stone. capital of Sonora, has a population of 6,000. The country is traversed by the Cordilleras Mountains, are many open plains, the soil is generally arid, and is cultivated except in the vicinities of towns, where there are some gardens. The entire population of Sonora is 139,374, and its area is 228 miles. With Chihuahua, possession of the United States obstructs a line of rail from New Orleans to Guaymas, of only 1000 miles. Such a command the entire Pacific trade. It would be the high command the traffic of the those countries: As the States of Sonora and Chihuahua would be only a matter of half, its superiority over San Francisco to the East, at a glance. Should the States of Sonora and Chihuahua the United States be conquered, a fine country would be thrown civilization, and an artery through which would flow the Orient in exchange products of the Occident.

**LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.**

**Intercolonial Cricket.**

The Return Cricket Match between New Westminster and Victoria, came off yesterday on the ground and resulted, as the score in a signal victory for the Victoria. The day was magnificent and the play fair order. A considerable number of spectators watched the game, and evinced considerable interest. The wickets were pitched and the Victorians took the bat. Wallace and Barnett, who made the former being bowled by six, and the latter run out. Browne contributed three runs; a rattler into his lumber yard; lively innings, added 10 more, caught by Howse, and Howse followed, exhibited some fine play, kept the ball in motion for some time, but was caught by Good. The former was caught by Good. The latter was run out with 26. four did not help the score much. Victoria's first innings was a fielding of the New Westminster rather loose and the bowling was no less than 25 wickets being taken by the Victorians.

It was 1 p. m., when Messrs. Good took their stand at the Victoria, but they soon returned to the ground, and four runs between them, and success seemed to grow fainter. Another of their crack players, without making a score, eleven only making 17 runs. Howlett contributed 8. The