

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Saturday, April 3, 1869.

We have always been under the impression hitherto, that if our Government never originated anything towards the development or advantage of the Colony, they were at any rate not opposed to such action when emanating from some other source. In plain terms, though too indolent themselves, they had no objections to some one doing it for them. This idea appears to have been erroneous. Not only will the Government not do anything of themselves, but they object to anyone else taking the initiative. How long will the people of this Colony submit to such treatment at the hands of officers whom they pay handsome salaries under the impression that they are paying for services rendered for the public benefit. We have only to refer our readers to the letter of Messrs. Reynolds and Lakin, and the official reply, to convince the most sceptical that our Government is a real obstruction, and that it is incumbent on our citizens to take the matter into their own hands if they desire to preserve themselves from utter annihilation. What will this Colony ever be worth without population? Has the Government ever done anything towards the settling up of the country? Has it not on every occasion endeavored, on the contrary, to throw every obstacle in the way? How about female immigration? After the resolution expressing the opinion of the Council that such a measure was necessary and advisable had been carried unanimously through the Council, backed by the opinion of the entire population outside, what did our intelligent Government suggest? To send the recommendation home for the approval of the Imperial Government!!! Can any other conclusion be arrived at than that that proposition was another way of putting a veto on the measure? And does anybody think that the Government would have given way if it had not been for the decided expression in which this underhanded way of betraying the interests of the Colony was attempted to be carried out, thus making expediency the arbiter in the case? What have Reynolds and Lakin done that they may not serve their fellow Colonists and settle on the public lands? They have done for years and were trying to do now what the Government, at least the present Government, has consistently opposed—the settlement and development of the Colony. If some enthusiastic admirer of Government circumlocution and the art of "how not to do it" requires to be rewarded for his fidelity, an exploration party is immediately got up, that a surface may be put on such malapropos of public money; but great care seems to be always taken that the pretended exploration shall result in nothing. If, however, any real explorer, conscientiously believing that he can, and earnestly desiring to benefit the public, offers his services, he is immediately snubbed and "put down" so as to secure consistency to this mockery of government. What did these men require in their effort to open up the country? Six hundred and twenty-five dollars and a bit of land that they would pay for out of their wages. What do our Faithful Officials require to compensate them for building residences that nobody asked them to build, in order that they may be able to erect, now, ones in this city commensurate with the importance of their valuable services to the people of this Colony, and that they may do justice to the salaries they get out of the peoples earnings, and enjoy them to the utmost. The only particular about which we feel any curiosity is, as to what length of time the Colonists will continue to allow anything so subversive of their interests as the present system of Government to exist without at least remonstrating against its continuance.

THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND INTO WHICH MISMANAGEMENT HAS THROWN US, appears to have exerted its malevolent influence on the energies of our people, so that they sit supinely by and allow aliens and strangers to take from under their very noses the produce of

our fisheries, which would give employment to hundreds of hardy people who follow that profitable occupation, and would enrich our commercial men to an extent that no other investment of money would accomplish in proportion to the outlay. A party of men, fitted out at an expense not exceeding \$3,000 to \$4,000, is capable of procuring oil giving a nett profit of ten times that amount; but supposing the average success gives only four to five hundred per cent where on earth can such a return for so small an investment be realized? This fact is so palpable that the keen olfactory nerves of our neighbors of the Bay City have been affected by it; and nevertheless, until we absolutely see them at work making use of our own bays and harbors to run their fish into and prepare their oil, it is quite imperceptible to us that they have been gradually creeping up here for years, having exhausted their own waters of fish. What are our people doing? Does this millstone of a Government that hangs around the necks of the people of this Colony render them inert? Or are they so demoralized with submission to what is so manifestly injurious that all traces of energy have left them? We only know that any other people in the world would have explored such ready sources of wealth and turned them to account long ere now, and not have allowed strangers who would not expend a cent with us if they could positively avoid it, carry off the treasure that belongs of right to our citizens. We ask our people, for the sake of the young who are rising up around us, to awake; let them shake off this fatal lethargy that is gradually sinking them lower than Russian serfs; that is depriving them of a comfortable provision for their families, and what is worse than all, their own self respect. In a few years, between the parties already in operation, and the adventurers in course of fitting out, all on San Francisco account, we shall not have a whale left in our waters; and the millions of dollars resulting from the pursuit gone to enrich our neighbors, and rival, who for so many years have been absorbing all we can gather here by dint of indomitable perseverance, in consequence of our worse than want of Government. The days of forbearance are past. The citizens must no longer be allowed to wander unguided for like sheep without a shepherd.

Monday, March 29
NEW WESTMINSTER ITEMS.—At the annual meeting of the Howe Sound Coal Mining Company, the following directors were elected:—F. H. Lamb (Chairman), J. A. Webster, P. German, Hon. H. Holbrook, H. Hogan, R. Dickinson, Geo. Deitz, J. Hume, Hon. A. T. Bushby. Two hundred dollars have been raised to defray the expense of erecting a new fence around the New Westminster Cemetery. The steamer Onward will sail for Harrisonmouth on or about Saturday next.

NANAIMO ITEMS.—The bark Kustoff is loading with coal at the above port for Sitka. The supply of coal, ready for shipment is large so that no delay will occur to vessels seeking cargoes. The ladies of Nanaimo are determined to hold the foremost rank in reproductiveness, and are furnishing more illegitimate subjects to Her Majesty than any other locality in the Colony of equal population. By rapid home production we may be at last independent of immigration.

CARIBOO MINING INTELLIGENCE.—From the *Sentinel*, we learn that yield of the Barker claim for two weeks was 220 ozs; the Baldhead, one week, 94 ozs; Sheershead, 37 oz; Canadian and Cariboo, about wages. The Jenkins company on Stout Gulch have struck a good prospect in the lower part of their ground, supposed to be a continuation of the pay obtained some time ago in the upper part of their ground.

GRAND BRITAIN.—According to the return of the English Board of Trade for the year 1868, there are 66,964,280 acres of land, or 89,006 square miles in England, Wales and Scotland. Of this extent of territory, 21.5 per cent. is used for the cultivation of grain; 40.5 per cent. for pasturage, 223,389 acres for flax and hemp, and 3.2 per cent. is waste. In the same year the stock of cattle amounted to 3,093,416 head of horned cattle, 35,607,812 sheep and 3,189,167 swine.

THE FIRST STRIKE.—The *Cariboo Sentinel* chronicles the first strike of the season on Conklin Gulch, in a claim known as the Indian Queen, where the miners got a prospect of \$11 to the pan. It is supposed an old channel has been struck; and if this supposition be correct a comparatively new and extensive gold field has been discovered.

A Proposition to Explore the Island for \$25 Rejected by the Government.

Victoria, B. C., March 18th, 1869.
May it please Your Excellency: We, the undersigned miners, now residing in Victoria, and British-born subjects, beg to submit to Your Excellency a plan by which we think we should be enabled to explore and prospect, search for, and develop in some measure the mineral resources of this extensive colony.

We beg to remind Your Excellency that though there has been two or three expeditions fitted out at Government expense within the last three or four years, that their failure is not a proof positive of the non-existence of rich mineral deposits, either in alluvial ground or in the matrix; in other, or even the same, localities; that while we can appreciate the services of the gentlemen engaged in these exploring parties in an astronomical, geographical, and botanical point of view, we very much doubt whether either or all these would attract a population to our shores, but rather the discovery of the precious and baser metals, which has caused such a stream of human beings to flow to California, Australia, and British Columbia. We therefore lay before you our plan of operations, and should they meet Your Excellency's approval, we promise to follow them up to the best of our ability.

1st. To prospect the northeast coast of this Island, commencing near Cape Mudge, by going up the rivers and creeks, as also the rocks along the shores, more particularly the metamorphic system when seen, and to follow inland to a convenient distance, any metallic ores or mineral veins we may consider worth following and extract from them specimens such as we may think worth saving.

2nd. That after having spent a month or six weeks on the northeast side of the Island, if we should have previously discovered something satisfactory, to cross over to the northwest shores of the Island and prospect the same on our way back.

3rd. That we our memorialists have had very considerable experience in prospecting and mining operations in England, Australia, and British Columbia, and we feel assured from past experience that many valuable minerals could be found had we the means of searching for them.

4th. In order to efficiently carry out this plan we require an outfit of provisions, a small vessel such as the one Captain Cooper had for sale, tools, fire arms, and ammunition, and remuneration in the shape of small wages, and which we consider, will be nearly as follows:

Rations, fuel and blasting powder say	\$ 50
For four white men and 2 Indians for 3 months.....	210
Wages for 4 miners for 3 months at \$60 per month.....	720
Indians, two, for 3 months at \$20 per month.....	120
	\$1,100

The prospectors or miners are willing, as they wish to settle in the country, to take one-third in cash and two-thirds of their amount in land on the Island; deducting two-thirds of miners wages for land amounting to \$480, leaves a total amount for the expedition, exclusive of the vessel of \$620.

5th. That at every convenient opportunity we will report progress to your Excellency of all discoveries, and send such specimens as we may obtain from time to time through the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, and we shall be happy to receive any suggestions from your Excellency, or any one you may appoint and beg to subscribe ourselves,
Your most obedient servants,
MATTHEW REYNOLDS,
FRANCIS LAKIN.

British Columbia.
Colonial Secretary's Office,
22nd March, 1869
Gentlemen.—The Governor has had under consideration your letter of the 13th inst., containing a scheme for prospecting a portion of Vancouver Island, and of the Mainland of British Columbia, and in reply to your request for assistance from the Government to enable you to carry this scheme into effect, I am instructed by His Excellency to inform you that he is not in a position to meet your wishes.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Messrs. M. Reynolds and Francis Lakin,
Esqs., &c., Victoria.

THE GYMNASIUM.—All the apparatus of the Gymnastic Club has been removed to the new quarters at Alhambra Hall, and the exercises have commenced. The apparatus is so arranged that in case of a ball or other public entertainment, it may be removed and placed out of reach without difficulty. The Club is in a prosperous condition, and the young men, though neither Turks nor Mohammedans, are nevertheless ardent Muscovites.

SANITARY COAL SEAM.—A sackful of coal from this seam was brought in on Saturday last by Mr. Reid. It is bituminous and appears to be of excellent quality. The seam crops out close to the water's edge of a small harbor where vessels may load without difficulty.

FATAL AFFRAY.—A miner named Jesse Pierce, on the 10th inst., at Mosquito Gulch, fought with another miner, named W. Phillips, and kicked him in the abdomen, rupturing a vessel and causing the unfortunate man's death in a few hours. Pierce was arrested and committed to jail to await his trial.

The Importance of our Whale Fisheries to Victoria.

Editor British Colonist.—Among the many sources of wealth in this Colony the development of which is awaiting the energy and industry of our colonists, there is not one, whether it be coal, lumber, mineral or agriculture, that demands our immediate attention more emphatically than do the whale fisheries of our Coast. It is a fact now placed beyond dispute, that the Gulf of Georgia, Queen Charlotte's Sound, Barclay's Sound, and, in short, every bay and inlet on our coast, is at some season of the year literally alive with hump-back whale. Mr. Dawson of Saanich, in the face of obstacles, which would have deterred most men, and with a perseverance worthy of all praise, has succeeded in playing beyond a doubt the fact, that hump-back whale can be killed not only in sufficient quantities to pay, but to pay well. If one company, groping about enveloped in the fog of last summer, and altogether, contending with the most adverse circumstances, succeeded in killing eight whales with one boat, that of itself is the most convincing proof, that whale fishing upon this coast, under ordinary circumstances, and properly managed, cannot fail to prove highly remunerative. Shore whale fisheries upon the coast of California have for the last fifteen years been a source of very considerable profit to every man engaged in them. The supplying of these companies with all the necessary material, the buying and exporting of their oil has become quite a business in San Francisco; a business now divided among six or seven houses. There are now some twelve shore companies actively engaged during the season upon the coast of California; each company lowering from two to six boats; these companies will average about 25 men each, and that along a stretch of coast of something like 450 miles. And besides these shore companies, from ten to twenty vessels make a trip there during the season. Say, 500 men are engaged every season upon the coast fisheries of California. If that number of men can find profitable employment upon the coast of California in catching whales, there is no doubt but five times that number may find profitable employment for the next ten years around our Island and along our coast, and for this reason: The California whaling season lasts only about four months. They catch principally what are called California greys, or Devil fish, a whale which seems to be of a migratory character. Two months late in the fall he goes South, which is called the "down season." Two months early in the spring he comes North, which is called the "up season." During these four months are caught almost all the whales which are caught upon that coast. There is this distinction between the coast fisheries of California and those of our waters, and it is an important one: They fish for California greys, a migratory fish, which they only have four months out of the twelve; we fish for hump-backs which we have all the year. It is now pretty well ascertained that hump-backs never leave our coast. They will frequent one bay at one season, and another bay at another season of the year; but in the Gulf of Georgia, for example, Humpbacks are there every month in the year. As a matter of course, in ordinary winters, stormy weather would occasion a considerable loss of time; but I question if there is any other northern whale fishery in which so large a portion of the year can be profitably employed. Although hump-back will be the principal whale hunted for, yet there is no doubt that there will be found a few right, whale and occasionally a sperm whale, both of which are very valuable. I said that if California can support five hundred men on our coast will support five times that number. But let us at present reduce our anticipations to something which seems to me to be as certain as anything in the future can be certain, and that is, that within the next three years, whether Victoria does it or not, we will have at least twenty companies of twenty men each, stretched around our coast. That business will of course be a source of considerable profit to Victoria; but it rests entirely with ourselves, whether Victoria or San Francisco is to have the lion's share of the profits. Here is a business, one which has paid in every part of the world, where it has been prosecuted; all that we have to do is to stretch out our hand and grasp it, and if Victoria fails to do that, San Francisco most assuredly will. In fact the last named city is already nibbling at it. A San Francisco house is now assisting a company on Howe Sound, supplying them with material and will, no doubt, be prepared to buy their oil as soon as caught. Half a dozen men with a few hundred dollars will, in San Francisco, obtain all the assistance they require to enable them to start a company. Why cannot Victoria arrange to provide all the necessary material? But as one cannot in a single letter do anything like that justice to this question which its importance demands, I shall with your permission recur to the subject at an early day.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Somewhere or other disease is ever rife; everywhere its surest opponent this purifying medicine is to be found. When symptoms of sickness first set in, they may be easily subdued by this grand remedy, which gives great and prompt relief to every oppressed organ or disordered function. These Pills regulate and strengthen digestion more readily, efficiently and with more certainty than any other combination of drugs be it ever so scientifically prescribed. Nothing can exceed the ability of Holloway's medicine to secure natural functional action, where, by thousands of life-long maladies have been prevented at very trifling expense and no detriment to the constitution. An acquisition so priceless should be at hand in every household.

FEMALE COMPLAINTS should be cured, as they surely can be, by a few doses of HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.

SARSAPARILLA.—A few doses of this medicine will cure a variety of skin diseases.

FRED PAYNE has removed his Cheap Shaving Shop to the opposite side of Johnson street, just above the Miner's Saloon.

Australian Preserved Meats.

(From the London Daily News, January 23d.)

A rather curious entertainment was given last evening at the Central Depot of the Australian Meat Agency in Northcote. In order to afford a public opportunity of testing the quality and capability of the preserved meat imported by the Agency into England, Mr. Tallerman, the manager, had issued invitations to workpeople engaged in several of the principal establishments in London, and about eighty workmen and their wives sat down to a banquet, the various dishes of which were composed of preserved beef and mutton. There were beef and mutton pies, stewed beef, beefsteak puddings, Australian dumplings, mince collops, gelatine of mutton brawn, sausages and potted meats. Dr. B. W. Richardson occupied the chair, and both he and Dr. Steward, who was among the guests, bore testimony to the fact that the meat which was served retained all the nutritious qualities belonging to beef and mutton. Their testimony on this point may be regarded as sufficient; and it is but just to add that several of the guests spoke in favorable terms of the dishes of which they had partaken, only complaining that one or two of them, the mince-collops especially, were too salt. This is all that can be said in favor of the viands.

The meat imported by this agency is all either salted or smoked, and, despite the circumstances that the dishes served last evening had been prepared by a very experienced cook, they were almost all of them characterized by a decidedly disagreeable flavor of saltiness or smokiness. The most successful plats were the stewed beef, in which the natural taste of the meat was modified and relieved by the vegetables (onions, carrots, etc.) which accompanied it, and the mince-collops. In a few observations which he addressed to his guests, Mr. Tallerman frankly admitted that the process of curing was not perfect, but informed them that his experience of the English market had led him to suggest several improvements, especially the use of sugar, in the method of cure; and he had no doubt that future consignments would be of a superior quality. He even went so far as to express a pretty confident hope that he should before long be able to import fresh meat into London. The meat as now imported is sold, free from bone, for 7d. a pound, and there can be no doubt that its extensive introduction into domestic use would be a great benefit to the laboring classes and their families, many of whom suffer severely from the want of animal food. At the same time, its flavor is not inviting, and the difficulties which stand in the way of making it palatable are likely for some time to exclude it from the tables of the "simplest methods of cookery."

European Items.

DRAMATIC PROFITS.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: Mr. Boucicault startled us some time ago with a disclosure of the income a talented constructor of sensation dramas may realize by them. It would appear that subordinate branches of the profession are no less remunerative in their degree. It appears from a case in the Common Pleas that the manager of the Alfred Theatre lets a box and ticket office there for from £800 to £400; that the lessee's net profit is from £10 to £4 a week. The programmes he disposes of yield a fair return on capital, selling from 3d. his lowest charge to 2s. 6d.; from the price of a *Times* to that of a *Fraser*, or a *Blackwood*. A solitary opera glass ought to be a modest annuity to Mr. Hirschfeld, as he hires it out at from 2s. 6d. in the boxes to 2s. and 1s. 6d. elsewhere. His scale of charges for the same article to different classes of clients reminds one of Douglas Jerrold's innkeeper's soda water which he sold for 3s. 9d. a bottle to the rich and 2s. 6d. to the working classes. Mr. Hirschfeld's labor and responsibility in taking charge of coats is moderately recompensed by over £150 per annum. If these things are done in the green tree what may we not fear are done in the dry?

An artist named Baines who was with Dr. Livingstone in South Africa, has painted about one hundred and forty pictures in oil of views in that country. They were all painted on the spot, and have just been placed in the art gallery of the Crystal Palace. The Marquis de Sarda Bendeira announced officially in the sittings of the Portuguese Cortes of the 22d ultimo that the King had empowered the Ministers to remain in office. He added that the Council of State had determined to dissolve the Chambers immediately.

Wagner has finished the third part of his *Niebelungen*, a mammoth opera in four parts, necessitating several nights for performance. In one scene an aquarium is required for the characters, who have to swim and disport about between water and rocks, singing all the while. Pleasant work for delicate-voiced tenors.

"Mr. dear," said Mr. B. to his wife, while his smiling countenance indicated the consciousness of having done a good action, "I have just had my life insured for your benefit." "Well, I declare," exclaimed Mrs. B., looking around upon her family and friends with an expression of injured innocence, "just to think of the selfishness of men, and particularly of husbands! There you have been and had your life insured, while your poor wife may go without any insurance on hers. It is just what I would expect of you!" she fretfully exclaimed; and was only recalled to a sense of her injustice and absurdity by hearing an uncontrollable burst of laughter all around her.

Senanayake claims to have invented a "totally new" velocipede, the motive power of which is the weight of the rider.

The revenue of British India is over £40,000,000.

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It is, as a matter of course, a matter of course to please everybody subject to female immobility; everyone, it is a matter of course, on the subject of arrangement, ever, be satisfactory to know that whatever in respect to the subject, to, will be carried out, advantageous to the best country. The desire, immigration having been the next step is to determine females required, be selected; they stand amongst those who are useful, and the most permanently settled. Fortunately these requirements are in hand, as we have a class of settlers—the require wives, and by destination of such immigrants. That they be fixed. That they be productive, may be looking at the list observing how much of these are included in the. Thus, the class of peopled are females from districts of England, been educated and as manufacture of produce the soil. To obtain such course must not be the Commission, but visited through the Colony. How frequent been known to say the little money they their wives, sweethearts as the case may be, ought to be their people should offer a assistance immigrant arrived, she my her friends, and the tain that she would supported by the Colony is more, the kind of would be almost character that would sary to bring them of forty; they could be vessel that came direct time, as every vessel tion for a dozen at least could be easily provided or otherwise. If the selves would only use by showing their advantages the Co that there is a good able market for every be raised, and ple and room for all, the little need for Govern apply to the Board of and still less need for the Colony. The necessities, however, exist sum granted by the Government in view, it will be whatever may be required any such local Board should be gratuitously, and the available for the purposes in the way prescribed a loss to see how any ad derived from an agency lished at San Francisco, entail the payment of one, and would do very sending us help, and still permanent population. is in a manner necessary ford a specified means of formation on the part of and also to negotiate which immigrants can the old country. We original views on the \$150 will be required adult immigrant, and the Government should the applicant here, paying receipt by the mercantile of advice of the vessel's immigrant on board, and \$50 on the arrival out additional \$25 might the government, (making tion from the fund \$75) each of the girls in the necessities for the voyage capability in service at