

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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AGENTS.

Agents for the Colonist Building, Government and Langley streets, adjoining Bank of British Columbia.

The Coming Selection.

In a few days this Island will be required to select three representatives to send to the Legislature of the United Colonies, and never was there an occasion in the history of the Colony requiring the exercise of sounder discrimination and judgment in the use made of the franchise. To continue bawling the loss of representative privileges is trifling time. All the threatenings and railings of the demagogues, who in their blind thirst for greater power, bereft themselves of all voice in the Government of the country, and thus fell into a pit of their own digging, are mere bags of wind, the convulsive writhings of ambitious, but shallow and disordered minds in the throes of political dissolution; and the present constitution, that they have been instrumental in saddling upon us, is as likely to be amended at their dictum as Her Majesty's Government is to acquiesce in the prayer of the petition passed at the Annexation Meeting (had that document ever seen the light.) We may deplore the fact that but three popular members are to be sent from this Island to represent our interests in a Legislature that can be virtually controlled by the Government, and we may blame Governor Seymour for not throwing open a larger proportion of the elective members to popular choice, but the power is in his hands, and he has a right to exercise it if his judgment or the counsel of his advisers so directs him. There are some—fortunately for the community they are a small and insignificant class—who are so devoid of all manly attributes as to advise the Electors to disfranchise themselves by ignoring the modicum of representation left to them; in other words, to "sit still while their throats are cut." Such cowardly and despicable sentiments deserve the execration of all right-thinking and well-disposed men, and we rejoice to see that the community is already alive to the necessity of making an early and judicious selection of the men in whom it is to repose so important a trust. The right of veto reserved by the Executive is a mere bugbear. It has previously existed in British Columbia, but as stated by Governor Seymour, in his despatch to Mr. Cardwell, it will not be made use of except under peculiar circumstances. British Columbia has already returned at least three popular members who will act independently in the Council, and who are not unfavorable to Victoria interests, while the Governor has yet to select five representatives from those gentlemen holding commissions of the Peace on this Island, to fill up the representative list, and to suppose that these five official nominees, themselves possessing large landed interests in the Colony, will be menial enough to become mere puppets in the hands of the Executive, is an insult to their common sense and intelligence.

gence. We do not fear but that this section of the Colony will be well cared for in the coming session of the United Legislature despite the seeming disadvantage under which we are placed. All that remains for us to do is to see that the right class of men are constituted the organs of public sentiment in the legislative hall, to the exclusion of political quacks and office seekers, we shall then stand some chance of seeing the affairs of the country conducted with "harmony in things essential; liberality in things not essential; and charity in all."

Address from Cowichan.

The following address from the residents and property-holders in the Cowichan Valley was presented on Saturday to the Governor:

May it please your Excellency.—We, the undersigned inhabitants of Cowichan, beg most respectfully to congratulate your Excellency on the safe arrival of yourself and Mrs. Seymour in the Colony, and we trust you may both be preserved in the uninterrupted enjoyment of perfect health, and that your stay among us may ever be regarded with pleasure and gratification.

As inhabitants of the most important agricultural settlement in the Colony, we trust it will suit your Excellency's convenience, at an early date, to afford us an opportunity of giving your Excellency a personal welcome, from which we regret we are by distance at present precluded.

We also trust we may be permitted most respectfully to express our hope that the United Colony of British Columbia and Vancouver Island may, under your Excellency, so steadily increase in population and wealth as may afford your Excellency the well-merited approval of success, and give occasion to all under your Excellency's Government to look back upon your administration as the wisely directed commencement of a career of healthy progress, and that this earnest and sincere hope may be fully accomplished, we trust that the blessing of God may attend upon all your counsels.

We have the honor to remain, &c.

(Signed by)

Wm. SHELTON REECE, A. M.,

Minister of Cowichan,

And above 50 others.

His Excellency in reply to the address said:

GENTLEMEN:—It is with great pleasure that I receive the address presented by you on behalf of certain inhabitants of Cowichan. Mrs. Seymour joins with me in cordial thanks to the signers of it. I am sure our stay in the Colony will be attended with pleasure to us should prosperity return to these shores. I shall have great pleasure in paying you an early, but short visit, in anticipation of a more lengthened one at a season of the year less unpropitious to the labor of the farmer. I sincerely trust that the hope you express that the Colony may increase in population and wealth may be realized. I know no British dependency more favored by nature, and we want but the establishment of regular steam communication with the mother-country to induce many immigrants to avail themselves of the vast resources of British Columbia. I am not without hope that such communication will be speedily established with the assistance of the Imperial Government.

Believing that the worst days of the Colony are now passing, and that brighter prospects are before us, I shall use every effort to make permanent any improvement that may arise. If I leave the Colony more prosperous than I find it, I shall indeed have cause to look back with satisfaction to the period of my administration.

CONVERTS TO CATHOLICISM.—A recent convert, writing to the *Weekly Register*, gives the following statistics of conversions which he now says are going on from the Anglican to the Roman Church:—"At the church in Farm-street the average for the last four years has been one convert a week received into the church. At Dr. Manning's former church, at Bayswater, the average is about three in a fortnight; at the Oratory, two a week; at Islington, one in the fortnight; at the Carmelites' Church in Kensington, about one a week; at Kingsland Chapel, near Stoke Newington, two a week; and at Upper Ogles-street, Marylebone-road (near the famous St. Mary Magdalene's, high church, of Mr. Stuart), there are never less than five or six Protestants for admission to the church. Of these converts about a third are from the upper and a third from the professional classes, the rest are artisans and their wives."

FROM PORTLAND.—The steamer *Fideliter* Captain Eskine, arrived yesterday afternoon having left Portland on Sunday, the 2d inst., and been detained by stress of weather one day at Astoria, three days in Baker Bay, and one day in Neah Bay. She brought 22 passengers, including eight soldiers for Fort Steilacoom, W. T., and a large freight as per marine report. We are indebted to Captain Eskine for files of Portland papers. Passengers represent times as unusually dull amongst the webfoot.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION had an audience by appointment with His Excellency on Saturday, at noon, and were graciously received. The items submitted to His Excellency's consideration were: The uncertain position of the teachers and the urgency of settling the same; the strong public feeling in favor of Free Education; the moderate annual expenditure per head for the education of 440 scholars, compared with that in San Francisco for more than 10,000; and the claims of the Board to the property belonging to the schools in the public reserves. His Excellency, in reply, declared himself favorable to "Free Education in the abstract"; he would give a written answer to the Board in a few days, but said that his intention was to refer the financial question to a committee.

It was observed that the question was in a nutshell—whether the teachers should be paid and Free Education continued, or whether the whole system should be stopped; as also that although Gov. Kennedy had notified that he would guarantee no payments for education, he had left the establishment standing, and nobody had been dismissed; whereas the reverse had been the case with other departments. His Excellency did not contradict these observations, and the Board withdrew. We are glad to perceive from the result of this interview that Mr. Seymour is in favor of Free Education.

THREATENED THREAT.—Mr. Southgate is about to be annihilated. Listen to this fearful threat from yesterday's *Telegraph*, in its item about the political caucus meeting:

"A gentleman stated that Mr. Young would oppose Mr. Southgate at no one else did."

There, Mr. Young, will you rashly blindly to your fate after this timely warning? or will you not follow the example of the late defeated candidate for the Mayoralty, and elicit the weighty support of Mr. Young? remember! he combined his strength with that of Bunster, and the two polled just thirty-nine votes. What Young would have polled had he consented to stand alone is a subject for conjecture—something less than a baker's dozen, no doubt. Therefore, be warned in time! Beware Young's influence at all hazards—even if you have to "divide commissions" with him.

POLITICAL.—Mr. DeCosmos is the only candidate who has come before the electors for their suffrages. It has not yet been decided whether Dr. Helmecken will stand for the City or for District No. 2, in either of which he is sure of an easy victory. Mr. Southgate is put prominently forward as a candidate for the city by his friends; but that gentleman has not stated whether he will stand or not. C. B. Young, it is said, is anxious to be dragged out as a candidate, but his name has not as yet been mentioned for the position by any person besides himself. It is understood that the matter will be definitely arranged to-day. A compromise by the friends of Messrs. Helmecken, Southgate and DeCosmos should be arranged.

SALE OF THE ST. NICHOLAS BILLIARD ROOM FIXTURES.—All the splendid billiard tables, furniture, paintings, engravings and bar-fittings contained in the St. Nicholas Billiard Room, St. Nicholas Hotel, will be offered at auction by Mr. McCrea to-morrow. The tables are Phelan's make, and are pronounced the finest in the city, being supplied with all the recent improvements. Most of the pictures are by celebrated artists and are worthy the attention of patrons of the fine arts. The bar fixtures would be objects of admiration in a first class metropolitan saloon, and are in perfect order. We commend this sale to the notice of saloon keepers and others who may be in quest of furniture, fixtures or pictures.

THE CANADIAN CONFEDERATION.—The united population of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward's Island, in January 1864, was 3,618,151. The public revenues amounted to \$13,264,963 annually. The expenditure was \$12,507,000. The extent of the public domain which has passed into private hands was 45,638,854 acres, of which only 13,128,248 acres were under cultivation. The area not granted or sold, but nominally belonging to the Crown, and under the control of the Colonial Legislature is 214,282,817. The annual value of the agricultural products of the United Provinces is \$150,000,000, and the assessed value of the farms, \$550,000,000.

WORK on the Comox coal mine has been discontinued for the winter.

MR. JOHN WARK, of the Hudson Bay Co., returned from Portland yesterday.

ELECTORS!—Reserve your pledges until all the candidates are before you.

SMASH UP AND SPILL OUT.—Yesterday afternoon a horse attached to a buggy in which were seated a man and woman ran away on Yates street above Government and dashed with break-neck speed to the corner, where he ran against the awning of the Gem Saloon, involving himself, the vehicle, and the occupants in a common wreck. The man, woman, and horse were slightly injured and the vehicle smashed. The man gathered himself up and sloped, the weaker vessel, stunned by the shock, was led to her home by a sympathizing friend, and the horse was conducted to his stable.

THE "SELECTIONS."—High Sheriff Adamson gives notice that on Thursday next, at noon, he will proceed to hold a nomination for two members to represent the City and Esquimalt in the Legislative Council in front

of the school house. It is suggested that a poll be demanded, it will be taken at Esquimalt and Victoria. The City for No. 1 District, and on the 17th inst. for District No. 2, at the places named in the advertisement.

Governor Darling's Case.—A London correspondent writes:—"Lord Carnarvon has intimated that it is not his intention to reopen the question of Governor Darling's recall from the colony of Victoria, as decided by his predecessor in office. Nothing remains, therefore, for Sir Charles but to appeal for a re-hearing of his case in Parliament; and this, I am informed, it is not improbable he may do."

H. B. Co's Claims.—W. C. Johnson, attorney for the Government to take testimony in the case of the Hudson Bay Co. and Puget Sound Agricultural Co. against the United States, accompanied by Messrs. T. C. Huggins and Wark, who represent the interests of these companies, arrived yesterday from Puget Sound. They will be engaged here for a few days in taking testimony.—*Oregonian*.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—The schooner *Sarah*, Captain Collins, 28 days from San Francisco, ran into Esquimalt harbor yesterday morning. The *Sarah* was out during all the late severe weather and lost her sails. She is bound on a prospecting tour for oysters for the San Francisco market.

MUSICAL INSTITUTION.—The Education Class will meet this evening at eight o'clock, when readings and recitations will be given by the following gentlemen: President—Cochrane; Mr. Rennie; Mr. Guild; Mr. Dally; Continuation of the "Early History of Vancouver Island," by C. B. Young.

RETURNED.—Tom Lafont, on the *Fideliter*, from a successful tour through Washington Territory and Oregon. T. L. will open here with a company in a few days, when he will present startling novelties in his line. Look out!

FROM COMOX.—The steamer *Emily Harris* Captain Frain, returned from Nanaimo and Comox yesterday evening. Terrific gales are reported all along the east coast, during which the Harris and Douglas steamers lay at anchor at Comox.

FOSTER'S WHARF, at Esquimalt, has settled beneath the weight of a portion of the ship *Biddle's* cargo of coal, which was being discharged upon it, and the unloading has been discontinued.

By order of General Halleck, the headquarters of the United States Military Department of the Columbia have been changed from Fort Vancouver to Portland, Oregon.

REV. DR. BURNS, of Toronto, C.W., has been appointed to take temporary charge of the congregation worshipping in the First Presbyterian Church, Pandora street.

THE OLD CABLE between Lopez and San Juan Islands has been carefully raised by Mr. Haines and brought to this city by the steamer *Mumford* on Saturday evening.

MR. THOMAS FOORD, a native of England, was killed on his farm, at Salt Spring Island, a few days ago, by falling from the roof of a barn which he was engaged in shingling.

NANAIMO.—The bark *Almatia* sailed on Friday for San Francisco with 500 tons of coal; and the schooner *Crosby* sailed on the same day for Portland with 106 tons of coal.

THE *ISABEL* returned yesterday from Burrard Inlet, where she left the bark *Evelyn Wood*.

A BAL, given at Nanaimo on Friday night last, was largely attended, and proved very successful.

SKIM ICE formed in the gutters on Thursday night. Skating about Christmas.

Big Bend.

The steamer *Reliance* arrived from Yale last evening. She brought a Cariboo express and mail, also 45 passengers, amongst whom were Mr. McGreavy, of the Upper Fraser steamer Enterprise, Mrs. McGreavy; and from Big Bend direct, Messrs. Duncan, Wm. Henry, and Alexander Selkirk Robinson, all of the Gold Hill Company on French creek. They have run a tunnel 130 feet into the hill and have taken out a large amount of gold in pieces of from \$38 downwards. They left part of the company wintering in the tunnel, and have everything in a state of readiness for hydraulicizing the whole of the bank next season, as it will all pay good wages. The tunnel from which they have taken the gold is known as Blue Nose Tunnel.

The following companies were still at work and taking out more or less gold: The Discovery, six men; the Thompson, two men; the Daguer, four men; the Martin, will work

during the day. It is not more than six inches deep at the time our informant left.

On McCulloch's Creek there were very few persons and only one company working. The snow on the Divide was five or six feet deep, but travelling was tolerably good. Only about sixteen persons will winter at Seymour.

NEW DIGGINGS ON KOOTENAY RIVER.

Sheep Bailey, whose name is intimately connected with mining on French Creek, sent word to his partners there to come down at once to Kootenay, as he had struck new diggings higher up that river, much richer than anything ever found on French Creek. His friends proceeded down by the steamer. Forty nine, and Captain White had promised to run the steamer up as near to these diggings as practicable.

The "Evening Star" Disaster.

Half the horrors attendant upon the loss of the steamship *Evening Star* will never be published. Here is a chapter, furnished by the second mate, which conveys a faint idea of the awful scene which took place. The second mate left the wreck in a boat containing the Captain, and twenty-one men and women. The boat was capsized eight times, and all but nine of the people on board were lost. They finally got out of the trough of the sea. A correspondent of the *N. Y. Herald* concludes the affecting narrative:—Before coming in sight of land one man and one woman died, and were thrown overboard. The rest of the men and one lady became insane from thirst and hunger, and jumped overboard. This left the Mate and two young women, Miss Rosa Howard and Miss Annie Norton. They knew, on the night of the 8th, that they were near a port, from the feeble glimmering of the lights on shore; but the ladies were nearly insensible. Fortunately a slight rain came on at dark, and Mr. Goldie wrung a small quantity of water into their mouths, obtained by spreading a small piece of petticoat on the after-thwarts. This greatly revived them and reopened their stiffened jaws. They were sitting in the bottom of the boat, quietly, their hands clasped on his knees, when the boat entered the breakers, he steering with the piece of board.

The boat passed through two breakers successfully, but capsized in the third, in water so shallow that Goldie's feet touched bottom at once. He reached shore quickly, shouted to his companions and went into the surf as far as the undertow would permit, but neither saw nor heard them again. They undoubtedly, in their enfeebled condition, for six days without food or water, other than one small fish, and the rain of Monday evening—almost without clothing—exposed to an almost tropical sun—were drowned at once. They could not make the one small effort that would have crowned their heroic endurance with success. The body of Miss Annie Norton (printed Addie in the list of passengers) was found, and buried next morning above high water mark. Miss Rosa Howard's body (there is no Rosa Howard, but Rosa Burns, in the same list) was found the same evening by two fishermen; but their cowardly dread would not permit them to touch it. It was again seen by a little boy, who was unable to move it out of the surf.

The courage, patience, obedience of directions, heroic, quiet endurance of thirst and hunger and of an almost tropical sun, of all the ladies is spoken of by Mr. Goldie as being beyond praise; but Miss Howard (who had but a chemise, with her name on its front) and Miss Norton (who had, in addition to that garment, a sort of worsted sack, trimmed with dark trimming, made to be worn with a belt,) who survived the rest of the passengers, were brave, gentle, lady-like, uncomplaining, able to obey directions, desirous of assisting themselves and others to the utmost—they were heroines. That they should have failed at the last moment, after such heroic struggles, is sad to think of. They needed but the steel like muscles of the officer to have secured success. Miss Norton was about twenty years of age, quite tall, with dark hair. Miss Howard, on the contrary, was not above five feet one and a half or two inches, and sixteen or seventeen years of age; both remarkably fine looking women the hair of the latter was also dark. The last named lady was from the city of New York.

My boatman found the remains this afternoon. The sharks, shown by the marks of the teeth on the bones, had destroyed most of the body. It was that of a rather small female; a nearly entire foot was delicately and beautifully formed, and had always been encased in a light shoe. I buried the remains in the enclosed lot appropriated to soldiers and sailors who perished in the late war.