

The Weekly British Colonist
AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, November 5, 1867.

The Government Assay Office.

During 1866, the Government Assay Office at New Westminster was carried on at a net loss of \$2941, in the face of which fact the official element in the Council, led by the New Westminster renegade, passed a vote to continue the establishment for another year. This vote was carried despite the melancholy fact that many really useful schemes were abandoned at the time by the Government for want of funds. The arguments advanced by the friends of the institution in favor of its continuance were twofold. The office at New Westminster was so convenient for miners who required assays of gold, silver, copper, &c.; and second, it was a "check" upon the private assay office at Victoria. So far as the location of the establishment is concerned, it strikes us that the fact of its being fixed at New Westminster is really a very strong point against it, for the simple reason that there are no mines within three hundred miles of New Westminster, and that the dust and specimens brought to it for assay, in nine cases out of ten, are packed from the heart of the mining districts at great expense before the value can be ascertained. And the idea of Government maintaining an opposition to a private office that is forced by law to contribute a very considerable sum towards the support of that Government, would be most ludicrous, if it were not so monstrously unjust. Upon the same principle, Government ought to start a hotel of its own to prevent "tricks on travellers," ought to open a real estate office to put an end to an undue inflation of corner-lots; and, to keep down the price of flour, should have forestalled Beedy, Nelson and Bates in their wheat speculation in the upper country. Absurd as it would seem for Government to dabble in one or all of these "operations," the arguments advanced in favor of the continuance of the Assay Office appear no less ridiculous. So far as the public are concerned, the patronage they bestow upon the private assay office at Victoria is pretty strong evidence of the confidence they repose in its management, notwithstanding the slur cast upon its integrity. Our own opinion is, that until the country is farther advanced and prepared to strike off its own coin, an assay office will prove an expensive luxury, and will fail to return even a modicum of the sum required for its conduct; but if it is decided, in the face of the objections urged, to continue the institution, we hope that it will be removed to Cariboo—the place where it rightfully belongs, and where its officers will find at least partial employment in the legitimate discharge of their duties. Its maintenance at New Westminster is a fraud upon the Colony by those who are pledged to look after our interests.

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THE WORLD.—Mr. J. E. Evans, in of remarkable el, in Chester-

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Police Court.—Patrick Jenkins appeared in the Police Court, yesterday, to answer a charge of attempting to forcibly enter the house of Wm. Gibbs at Esquimaux. The charge fell to the ground, Patrick proving that he was only a "wee bit tight" and that he struck Gibbs' door with a shillalagh to "start him up a thrifle." The Magistrate inflicted a fine of \$1 25, which Mr Jenkins paid and was liberated.

DEATH OF A PIONEER.—Mr. D. Faujas, one of our oldest and most esteemed French residents, expired last evening at his residence. Mr Faujas came here in 1858, and has been actively engaged in business for the past nine years.

THE CHINESE VOTE.—A friend of one of the candidates for the Mayoralty, a few days ago, called on his Chinese washerman and solicited his vote and his influence with the Celestials voters for his favorite. "I want," said the gentleman, "you to bring all your friends to vote for — Shabbes?" "Yes," replied John, "heap me shabbes. Belly good! How many shabbes you want?" "Oh, hiyou," replied our friend, whose knowledge of Chinese is somewhat limited, "I wantee allee you can bringee; shabbes?" "You wantee ten men?" queried John. "Yes, twenty men—fifty men, all come votes for —" "All right, John, me come to-morrow," and the voter and canvasser separated, each fully impressed with the idea that he had fully comprehended the other's meaning. Yesterday the place of business of the canvasser was surrounded—literally besieged by Chinamen, some with short tails, some with long tails, and some with no tails at all. At the head of the besiegers appeared the washerman, tall erect, proudly leading the Celestial troop into the canvasser's office. "Hallo, John," screamed our friend, "what's the matter?" "Heap me shabbes come workee for you," replied John. "Workee for me!" and the voter and canvasser separated, each fully impressed with the idea that he had fully comprehended the other's meaning. Yesterday the place of business of the canvasser was surrounded—literally besieged by Chinamen, some with short tails, some with long tails, and some with no tails at all. At the head of the besiegers appeared the washerman, tall erect, proudly leading the Celestial troop into the canvasser's office. "Hallo, John," screamed our friend, "what's the matter?" "Heap me shabbes come workee for you," replied John. "Workee for me!" and the voter and canvasser separated, each fully impressed with the idea that he had fully comprehended the other's meaning.

ROAD TAX, 1867.—Notice is given in another column that assessment rolls of all persons liable to perform statute labor in the districts of Victoria, Lake and Saanich, have been posted in conspicuous places for public information.

THE ASSAY OFFICE.—The famous petition requesting His Excellency to maintain the assay office at New Westminster having arrived in town, everybody should sign it with both hands!

A HARD WINTER.—The Indians prognosticate a hard winter—hiyou rain and snow. The natives are quidnuncs in the matter of weather and their opinion is seldom doubted.

COMMUNICATED.
To be Sold.

That well known cream-coloured Irish mare Thimble, by Usquebaugh, out of Cruiskeen Lawn.

Thimble stands over 18 hands high, and is well known with the B.H. hounds. For performances see COLONIST. Some idea of her jumping powers may be formed when it is known that whereas Lottery never exceeded twelve yards, Thimble on one occasion jumped as many acres.

The mare is entered for the citizens' plate, to be run on the 9th November; also for the whisky and champagne stakes, and will be sold with her engagements.

No warranty will be given; but a surgeon's certificate will go with the mare, which will positively be sold on the day of the race, unless previously withdrawn.

Address, "MEDICUS," office of this paper.

Anecdotes of Queen Victoria.

Grace Greenwood contributes to the first number of the Weekly Advance the following, among other anecdotes of Queen Victoria:

"Another little anecdote, which shows her simplicity of character and shrewdness of perception, was told me by a gentleman who once enjoyed the pleasure of a very informal interview with her under rather peculiar circumstances. My friend, Mr. W—, is a person of very artistic taste—a passionate picture lover. He had seen all the great paintings in the public galleries of London, and had a strong desire to see those of Buckingham palace, which, not being a 'show house,' were inaccessible to an ordinary connoisseur. Fortune favored him at last. He was the brother of a London carpet merchant, who had an order to put down new carpets in the state apartments of the palace—and as it chanced that temptation came to my friend to put on a workman's blouse, and thus enter the royal precincts, while the flag indicating the presence of the family floated defiantly over the roof. So he effected an entrance, and when once within the royal halls, dropped his assumed character and devoted himself to the pictures. It happened that he remained in one of the apartments after the workmen had left, and while quite alone, the Queen came tripping in, wearing a plain white morning dress and followed by two or three of her younger children, dressed with little simplicity. She approached the supposed workman, and said:

"Pray, can you tell me the new carpet will be put down in the Privy Council chamber?" and he, thinking he had no right to recognise the Queen and the circumstances, replied, "Really, majesty—I cannot tell—but I will enquire." "Stay," she said abruptly but not unkindly, "who are you? I perceive that you are not one of the workmen."

"Mr. W—, blushing and stammering somewhat, made a clean breast of it and told the simple truth. The Queen seemed much amused with his ruse, and for the sake of his love for art, forgave it—and then asked, smiling, 'I know for all your dress that you were a gentleman because you did not 'your majesty' me.' Pray look at the pictures as long as you will. Good morning! Come chicks, we must go."

Another anecdote, illustrating Victoria's admirable good sense and strict domestic discipline, came to me directly from one who witnessed the occurrence. One day, when the Queen was present in her carriage at a military review, the Princess Royal, then rather a wild girl of about 13, sitting on the front seat, seemed rather coquettish with some young officers of the escort. Her Majesty gave several reproving looks without avail—winked at her, but she would not stay wicked. At length, in flitting her handkerchief over the side of the carriage, she let it drop, too evidently not accidentally. Instantly two or three young heroes sprang from their saddles to return it to her fair hand—but the awful voice of royalty stayed them. "Stop, gentlemen," exclaimed the Queen, "leave it just where it lies. Now,

my daughter, get down from the carriage and pick up your handkerchief." There was no help for it. The royal footman let down the steps for the little royal lady, who proceeded to lift from the dust the pretty piece of cambric and lace. She blushed a good deal, though she tossed her head snappily, and she was doubtless angry enough; but the mortifying lesson may have nipped in the bud her first impulse towards coquetry. It was hard but it was wholesome. How many American mothers would be equal to such a piece of Spartan discipline?

SUDDEN DEATH.—The death of Lady Catharine Long occurred suddenly yesterday morning at her residence, Landthorne-hatch, near Farnham Surrey, from the severe shock to the system occasioned by the tempestuous weather which prevailed between 1 and 2 o'clock, the effects of which were particularly felt in the western division of the county. Her ladyship had attended a croquet party at Aldershot on Monday afternoon, and retired to rest in apparent health, but being somewhat alarmed at the terrific peals of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning, she rang for her maid, who being dressed and in company with some of the other domestics in consequence of the terrible storm, was immediately in attendance. Her ladyship displayed much timidity, and sat for a time upon a couch in the bedroom. Two unusually loud thunder-peals followed in succession, and she was observed to start suddenly and drop her head. The maid, feeling alarmed, ran to another room for assistance, and on returning found her ladyship dead. Dr. Nichols, a surgeon residing in the neighbourhood, was immediately called in, and pronounced life to be extinct, and Dr. Yates, of Godalming, who had for some years resided for her, gave it as his opinion that the immediate cause of death was disease of the heart, accelerated by the sudden shock produced by the thunder and lightning. Lady Catharine was the daughter of the second Earl of Orford and the wife of Mr. H. Long, J. P., by whom she leaves a son and seven daughters. Unfortunately, Mr. Long and other members of the family are in Belgium, having left home a short time previously on a continental tour, and news of the melancholy event has been transmitted by telegraph. Her ladyship was 70 years of age.

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This new medicine is a sovereign remedy in phthisis and all other diseases of the lungs, promptly removes all the most serious symptoms. The cough is relieved; it night sweats cease, and the patient rapidly recovers his health.

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The majority of the Academies of Medicine of Paris recommend the Phosphate of Iron to ladies of delicate constitution suffering from anaemia, and other persons afflicted from over anxiety, nervous emotions, over work, general debility and poorness of blood.

It is the only preparation which never causes constipation and can be borne by the most delicate stomachs.

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A vegetable substance, used from time immemorial in Brazil, and entirely inoffensive.

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Where all other preparations have failed, these preparations will always effect a cure. These insure rapid and extraordinary cures of severe recent and chronic cases of priapism. They are used in the hospitals of Paris, by the celebrated Dr. Ricord, and are found greatly superior to all hitherto known mineral remedies and capsules and cubes. The injection is used in recent and capsules in more chronic cases.

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This delicious preparation is prescribed by the most celebrated doctors in France, against all derangements of the digestive functions, such as gastritis, gastralgia, long and painful digestions, wind in the stomach and bowels, constipation, jaundice, and complaints of the liver and lungs.

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The Fire Branch

Of this agency in 1866, was nearly double that of 1865—the risks in Victoria alone amounted to \$1,100,000.

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Life Branch.

Has also largely increased since the Directors reduced the rate to the English standard.

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Agents for Vancouver Island and British Columbia

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in all parts of the World from

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THE PROMPTITUDE AND LIBERALITY WITH WHICH

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NOTICE.

Phoenix Fire Assurance Co. of London.

MR THOMAS C. NUTTALL, THE

Agent of the above-mentioned Company, by his

Power of Attorney under his hand and seal, dated 23d

instant, has duly appointed me to act in his stead, for and on behalf of the said Company.

The Agency of the above mentioned Company has been removed to Government street, between Fort and Bastion streets.

Dated this 30th day of October, A. D. 1867.

oc31 ROBERT BEAVEN.