

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, January 30, 1866.

INFORMATION ON AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

In another column will be found an important letter from A. C. Anderson, Esq., to the Chamber of Commerce, on the Oregon and British Columbia routes to Big Bend. No man is better qualified for giving a description of the respective routes, as well as the distances, and when that gentleman tells us there is a difference in favor of the travel by way of Fraser River of 257 miles, those interested in reaching Big Bend may rest assured that the figure is rather under than over-rated. The letter, however, published this morning must be taken in conjunction with a communication which appeared in the Colonist twelve days ago on the same subject from the same gentleman. In that communication it is stated that the difference in time of travel between the Oregon and British Columbia routes is in favor of the latter by fifteen or twenty days. This is in itself a sufficient obstacle in the way of Portland obtaining any portion of the freight or passenger traffic. When, however, we add the expense of the Oregon route, the question ceases to form one for discussion. Mr. Anderson states that the distance from Victoria to the Columbia river in the vicinity of the diggings might easily be travelled in six days, thus enabling the California miner to reach Big Bend within ten days from his leaving San Francisco. By way of Portland it would be impossible by ordinary mining travel, to reach the mines under twenty-one. The question indeed has yet to be tried whether the steamer on the Columbia river will be able to make her way through the impetuous rapids which obstruct navigation on that river during the summer months. We believe, and we speak on the very best authority, she will not. If any number of miners should be induced to take the tortuous route, we expect to hear of their being detained at Colville or at some other point in the vicinity of the Columbia for a period that will leave them little time to test the richness of Big Bend. We say this in no spirit of disparagement of the Oregon route, but with the earnest desire to save the time and money of the adventurous miner. We say it in order that he may be deterred from travelling a route that cannot possibly admit him to the Big Bend diggings before May or perhaps June. By the British Columbia line, he may reach Gold Creek or any part of the mining locality by the end of March. The fact is the Columbia river, where the American steamer is to ply, is obstructed for half the year by ice, and is rendered during several of the other months un-navigable through the force of the rapids. It is our interest to see that no delay is experienced in having the mining population, and with it a proper amount of supplies at Big Bend early in the present year, and so far as the energy of our inhabitants can go we will accomplish it. The House of Assembly has already voted \$30,000 to provide cheap and direct steam communication between San Francisco and this port; the fares from here to New Westminster, or direct to Yale, will be brought down to the lowest possible figure, so that taking it altogether, the expense of travel from San Francisco to Big Bend, by way of the Fraser River, will not exceed thirty-five or forty dollars. The cost by the Portland route will be considerably over double this amount. When we come to examine the difference in the price of freight the proportion will be almost the same. According to Mr. Anderson's calculation, freight will be landed at Columbia river from New Westminster at seven and a half cents a pound, exclusive of the three cents for road tolls, which we have no doubt will be abolished. By the Oregon route the price cannot possibly be less than fifteen, or twenty cents. All it requires to open up Big Bend and fill it up with a vigorous mining population, is a liberal policy on the part of the British Columbian Government. Let the road tolls and the head money be abolished, and the recording fees at the mines reduced, and the most prosperous mining country on the Pacific the present year will be the colony of British Columbia. All this can easily be done if the authorities of New Westminster are fit for the occasion. If they are not, we shall see them attempting the ridiculous project of getting ocean steamers to go up to New Westminster—of creating taxation in order that the laws of nature may be reversed. It will cost, supposing the scheme is practicable, sixty or seventy thousand dollars to induce any mail company to risk their vessels on the Fraser river sands, and when this is done, Victoria will be able to land the California miner at New Westminster infinitely cheaper than he can be brought direct from San Francisco. Let Mr. Birch look after the internal communications of British Columbia, and not lend himself to the insane project of taking thousands of dollars out of the miners' pockets in the hope of pleasing a few over-grown children in New Westminster with the sight of an ocean steamer. The export duty on gold is about to be abolished, let every nerve be strained to reduce still further the miner's contribution to the revenue of the country—let no San Francisco

steam company swallow up money that ought to be employed in facilitating the miner's travel from Yale to Big Bend, and in enabling the Government to abolish the head money and the road tolls.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, Jan. 22.

THE CHURCH RESERVE QUESTION.—The following petition for presentation to the House of Assembly on this vexed question was adopted last night by the Municipal Council. Some Councillors feared that the Court would in the interim issue an order making the injunction final, but we do not think that any apprehension need be entertained on that score, as the plaintiffs would surely not move under the circumstances for an order, and if they did we do not believe that the Court would entertain it. To the Honorable the Speaker, &c.—The petition of the members of the Municipal Council of the City of Victoria humbly sheweth:—That whereas certain fences and buildings have been erected on the Church Reserve situate within the city limits whereby the customary approaches to the city have been impeded, and it being the belief of your petitioners as representatives of the city of Victoria, that such highways and byways so impeded are under their supervision; and as they believe that the reserves should be vested in the city; and as their duties involve the preservation of the right of the citizens to the public thoroughfares. And whereas the powers of the Municipal Council are not clearly defined and in the present state of the finances the Municipal Council are not prepared to take action in the premises, they would therefore humbly pray that your honorable House will adopt such measures for the recovery of the rights of the city to the Reserve as in your wisdom you may deem fit. And your petitioners, &c.

WESLEYAN MISSION.—The anniversary meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society was held last evening in the Methodist Church, in the presence of a large number of persons. An apology having been read from Chief Justice Needham for his inability, through indisposition, to preside, the Rev. Dr. Evans was voted to the chair. The Rev. Mr. Browning read a statement of the operations and fruits of the Mission, with the sums received and expended, which mentioned among other things the fact that out of a sum of about \$300 received, more than \$100 had been raised by the Sunday school children. The Rev. Mr. Somerville delivered an excellent address on past, present, and future missions, and was followed by Mr. Pidwell, who spoke fervently and ably. Several other gentlemen addressed the meeting, the intervals being agreeably filled up by the excellent performances of the choir, and the proceedings terminated most satisfactorily and successfully.

INFORMATION RESPECTING BIG BEND.—Mr. J. Robertson Stewart, of this city, has received an official reply from the Administrator of the British Columbian Government, in answer to the request of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for information respecting the Big Bend country and the routes thereto. Mr. Birch informs Mr. Stewart that the Government is now having a guide-map made from the most authentic information, showing both routes through British Columbia and Oregon. A number of copies of this map will be forthwith lithographed and some sent to California and elsewhere for gratuitous circulation. The Chamber of Commerce are promised as many copies as they require for the same purpose.

A SMALL BILL.—We were yesterday shown particulars of a recent summary suit. The amount claimed was \$16 50, and the costs were taxed at \$11 70, making the total \$28 20. Had the principal been halved the costs would have been the same. We believe His Honor the Chief Justice will take this matter in hand with a view to the reduction of the present oppressive charges.

THE HOPE AND LADDER BENEFIT.—In our advertising columns will be found a card of thanks from the above fire company to those who assisted in their late benefit at the theatre. We understand that the net proceeds will exceed \$230.

Wednesday, Jan. 23.

POLICE COURT.

[From yesterday's Post.]

The Court was densely crowded to-day, and considerable interest was manifested to hear the case against James Brown, Daniel Watson, and Henry Robinson, charged "that they, on the morning of the 19th inst., unlawfully did make an affray in the Occidental Saloon, to the great terror and disturbance of Her Majesty's subjects."

Mr. Courtney appeared for the accused, and Mr. D. B. Ring for the prosecution. Peter Cargotich, sworn, said that five men came into the Occidental Saloon on the morning of the 19th inst., and demanded drink; he refused to serve them, as they were a rough crowd, but afterwards supplied them, and then went down stairs to turn off the gas. On returning, he saw the prisoner Brown striking Mr. Vinter; a man had Mr. Vinter's sword in his hand, and threatened to cut him (Peter) down if he interfered; others had billiard cues in their hand; Brown was kneeling on Vinter.

Cross examined by Mr. Courtney.—I was not terrified; a man who keeps a house has no right to get terrified; when one man said he would smash my head, that was time for me to leave, so I went for a policeman. J. G. Vinter sworn.—I was in the Occidental on the morning of the 19th inst.; I was playing cards; Plummer and Tronson were with me at the time; I recognise Watson and Brown as being there; Brown came and put his hand on my shoulder and put down four \$20 pieces and said he would back my play; after this some one knocked my gloves down, and at the same time threw a box of matches in my face; the next thing I saw was a chair held over Plummer's head and I was struck

from behind and kicked. (The witness's face and head is fearfully battered and a large quantity of his whiskers pulled out.) I do not remember anything more until Plummer assisted me to the washstand.

By Mr. Ring.—I cannot identify the man who struck me; Brown was the only man standing in a position to have struck me; Plummer had been excited but had calmed down some time previous to the row.

Mr. R. Plummer, the younger, sworn.—I was in the Occidental on Friday morning; Tronson and Vinter were playing cards; I cannot swear to the prisoners in the dock; I think Brown was present; I saw the matches strike Vinter; one of the parties held a chair over me and struck me, and threw the top of a spittoon at me. I ran to the other end of the room; I saw a man draw Vinter's sword.

By Mr. Courtney.—I was not afraid of the man who attacked me, but of the chair; when the chair was held over me I cleared from that spot.

Edward Tronson, sworn.—I was at the Occidental on the 19th inst.; I remember some of the men making a noise whilst we were playing cards and interfering with our game; Mr. Vinter asked them to be quiet, when a box of matches was thrown at his head; I recognise Watson and Brown; I think Watson was the man who held the chair over Plummer's head; the first thing I saw of the fight was Brown pitching into Vinter; a man who is not present drew Vinter's sword out, and said he would cut any man down who interfered.

Cross examined by Mr. Courtney.—I tried to stop the row; no one pitched into me; I from the moment I was asked to get the sword.

Mr. Ring addressed the court and characterized the assault as most cowardly.

Mr. Courtney said he pleaded guilty to an assault on behalf of his client, and asked the court to deal leniently with the accused, as he was an honest miner and had been led into the row by others, and if he was sent for trial he would lose a whole year's work.

Mr. Vinter said he did not wish to press the charge, and would wish the Court to deal summarily with the matter.

Mr. Pemberton.—I have not the power to deal with the case; my duty is to send it before a jury; I commit the prisoners for trial but I will take bail, two sureties in \$250 each, themselves in \$500, or a deposit in each case of \$300 cash.

SUPREME COURT.—Re Culverwell's Estate Trade Assignee vs. Levy.—This was an order to produce all papers and securities given by the bankrupt to B. S. Levy for the sum of \$1500 previous to his bankruptcy. No one appeared on behalf of the Assignee, and His Honor ordered the case to be struck out. No costs were asked for.

EDUCATION.—A general feeling of indignation prevails against those members of the Assembly who either for the love of opposition, to gratify some private pique, or for some unaccountable reason, uprooted our Common School system by refusing to vote the item of rent of school houses on Monday last.

CATHOLIC SERVICES are being held, morning and evening, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, by the Rev. Father Bouchard S.J. The Rev. gentleman has a fine sonorous voice speaks forcibly and clearly, adapting himself to the capacities of all his hearers. A large number of persons through the church to hear him.

FROM PORT SOUND.—The steamer Eliza Anderson, Captain Finch, arrived yesterday morning from Olympia and way ports with passengers and freight as per list under the head of marine intelligence. She experienced very severe weather since leaving this port.

FROM NANAIMO.—The schooner Alpha arrived at Esquimalt yesterday evening from Nanaimo with a cargo of coal. The schooner Indian Maid is also on the way down with coal.

FROM SAN JUAN ISLAND.—The schooner Anna arrived last evening from San Juan, with 14 tons potatoes and 3 1/2 tons oats. She brought several passengers.

PALTRY.—We are not as sensitive as our New Westminster contemporary about having credit for reprint from our columns, but in the last Chronicle a perversion of the original report of the meeting of Vancouver Islanders at the London Tavern is made simply to avoid mention of the Colonist, which certainly does not say much for the magnanimity of our contemporary. Mr. Dallas in his speech is reported to have said that "he held in his hand the Canadian News of Nov. 16th, containing an extract from the British Colonist, a Victoria paper." The Chronicle in publishing the report thinks it necessary to omit the name of the authority. Rather small truth.

HUSBAND AND WIFE.—The English Courts of Appeal have decided that if the husband and wife have known nothing of each other's existence for seven years, either of them may marry again without being guilty of bigamy, and that the burden of proof lies upon the prosecutor in the case, and on this ground—that it is contrary to the spirit of the English law that a prisoner should be called upon to prove a negative.

Mrs. LINCOLN.—The Treasury officials have deducted the late President's salary for the month of March from the sum awarded by Congress to Mrs. Lincoln. A rare example of the generosity of these officials is to be found in their conduct in not having made a further deduction for the first half of the month of April. Of such pitiful niggardliness the country ought to be heartily ashamed.—Oregonian.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR.—Lord Cranworth still occupies his seat on the woolsack. It is rumored that he will be succeeded either by Sir John Komilly, Master of the Rolls, or Sir Roundell Palmer, Attorney General,

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How many persons suffer from debility without knowing the causes why they are feeble! In most cases the stomach is the aggressor. Holloway's Pills have long been famed for regulating a disordered stomach, and restoring its healthy digestive tone; they are therefore confidently recommended as a never-failing remedy in all cases where the constitution, from any cause, has become impaired or weakened.

Diseases of the Head and Heart.

These formidable diseases are, unfortunately, of frequent occurrence; for the most part they creep on gradually, but may be prevented by proper precautions. Holloway's Pills are the surest preservatives against all derangements of the brain and are the speediest correctors of irregular circulation. If they be taken without delay when tingling in the limbs, drowsiness, or giddiness comes on, the effect will be marvellous.

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The name of these Pills is partly based upon the beneficial effects they have upon the constitutions of females. From the domestic servant to the peeress, universal favour is accorded to them for their invigorating and purifying properties, which render them so safe and infallible in all disorders peculiar to the sex. Obstructions in womanhood or approaching the turn of life—the most critical period—may be radically removed by a recourse to these Pills.

All Disorders affecting the Liver, Stomach and Bowels.

Whenever the stomach, liver, or bowels are disordered by high living, climate, over-indulgences, undue exertion or other causes, these fine regulating Pills will soon rectify the evil, and speedily bring back energy, strength, and cheerfulness, to the frame where previously all was lassitude, gloom, and dejection.

Dependancy, Low Spirits.

The misery occasioned by a disordered digestion is unfortunately, felt by most. These famous Pills should be taken in appropriate doses, to adjust the disturbed functions. They dispel headache, biliousness, nausea, lowness of spirits, and all similar ailments. A course of these invaluable purifying Pills never fails in removing the cause of such morbid affections, without subjecting the sufferer to any inconvenience.

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Ague, Biliousness, Dropsy, Indigestion, Jaundice, Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, Stomachic Disorders, Strains, Swellings, Tumor, Ulcers, Venereal Affections, Wounds of all kinds, King's Evil, Sore Throat, Weakness from whatever cause, Consumption, Indigestion, Debility, Dropsy, Jaundice, Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, Strains, Swellings, Tumor, Ulcers, Venereal Affections, Wounds of all kinds, King's Evil, Sore Throat, Weakness from whatever cause, Consumption, Indigestion.

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There is considerable saving by taking the larger sizes.

N.B.—Directions for the management of patients in every disorder are affixed to each Box.

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