

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

LONDON, Feb 15.—The *Times* this morning reviewing the debate last evening in Parliament, rejoices that the Government has adopted the idea so often advocated in the columns of that paper, viz., the withdrawal of the troops from Canada. The *Times* admits that Canada is an English colony liable to be invaded in case of war; yet peace is so assured that it is foolish to provide now for its rupture.

The House of Lords transacted no business of importance and adjourned early to enable their lordships to attend the Commons where the new Irish Land Bill was to be introduced.

In the Commons the galleries were crowded. Notices were given of bills to relieve the bishops from attendance in Parliament; to reduce the rates of paper and letter postage. Denial was made on the part of the Government that any negotiations had been entered upon for a renewal of the commercial treaty with France. Gladstone then asked leave to bring in a bill for land reformation, after which he introduced the Irish Church Bill. Other measures to meet the demands in Ireland were promised.

He reviewed the land question in Ireland at length, comparing the Irish land tenure with that of England and Scotland, and recounted the grievances of the Irish tenantry, and alluded to the failures of half a century of legislation to afford relief; he then enumerated the features of the bill, it provides for the security of tenure and increases the facilities of transfer and purchase of land for loans to the tenant desiring to buy, and to landlords to enable them to retain the land. The new law is to be administered by a court of arbitration. The Ulster customs are to be recognized in the improvement, giving the value to the tenant who are to be subject to execution for non-payment of rent. Claims against tenants are barred. Notices to quit are to give the tenant a year's time from the end of the current year and the county fees are to be divided between landlords and tenants. The bill will be read a second time on the 7th of March.

MADRID, Feb. 16.—Gen Prim yesterday officially assured the Cortes that the recent visit of the Duke de Montpensier was not of a political nature. The Carlist Deputy created a wild excitement in the Cortes yesterday, by charging that in the recent election their candidates in many districts were defeated through Government interference. The accusation was denounced as a falsehood. A stormy scene followed. After a violent debate the sitting was adjourned.

PARIS, Feb. 16.—Seven journals of the city have been officially warned this week. Last evening a great crowd of people assembled at the corner of St. Martin's, Belleville. It was dispersed by the police without disorder; still another prosecution being commenced against the *Marseillaise* for violating the press laws. The banks have generally reduced their rate of interest. The Government powers sustain the Russian Government in the demand upon Switzerland for the surrender of the felon Kerybkoft.

Father Hyacinthe has remained silent since his return to France. It is asserted reliable authority that he will be relieved by the Pope from his vows as a Carmelite monk and permitted to continue in holy orders an ordinary priest.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The weather during the past week was cold. Throughout England the new telegraphic system is hardly completed. There is complaint of delays, a great number of dispatches must be forced first through a pneumatic tube half a mile from the post office before they get on to wires. The service, however, is gradually becoming better and better.

Reviewing the debate in the House of Commons last evening on the projected Irish Land Re-form Bill, Bright expressed great satisfaction with the proceedings. He said the real union of Great Britain and Ireland may be dated from last night. "A new bill is inevitable in all its parts."

The *Standard* (Conservative) urges inquiry into the alleged cruel treatment of Fenian prisoners. The House of Commons held a brief session to-day. The proceedings were unimportant.

Oregon.
Portland Feb 17—The Ajax sailed for San Francisco for Portland yesterday at a.m. The California sailed at 4 p.m. to with a full cargo. A large quantity freight was refused, the steamer being full.

California.
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 17—The next dis-
steamer for Victoria will leave sometime
March.

the Colonial Government of the Cape Colony.

the time has now arrived, in our opinion, when a succinct and reliable history of the mines should be given for the information of the colony at large. We have, hitherto, refrained from speaking definitely upon this subject, fearing to make statements which might not be substantiated afterwards, and thus excite hopes which would fade away upon investigation. Our readers will at once perceive the propriety of this course. Another vivid excitement, gotten up on unreliable statements, and unproductive of satisfactory results, such as we have experienced here before, at the present time, would be diametrically to the best interests of the colony. The press would be justly held responsible for the mischief. Gearing wind from the past, we have carefully endeavored to avoid both evils. There has now, however, been collected such an amount of information upon these mines, that we consider it should be equally timely in our duty did not present it in a form likely to be of greater use to the public generally. We have therefore prepared a statement from the local press and reports of responsible parties extending from 1861, when the mines were first discovered, to 1869, when they were more thoroughly examined, and while we are satisfied of its substantial correctness we leave others to form their own opinions and their own conclusions.

As already intimated, these mines were discovered originally as far back as the late last year Edward Carey and W. C. Moore, miners from Queensland, it is stated, who, in the British Columbian Directory for 1910, are listed as having discovered the gold-bearing lode, during the month of June, while at the period of high water. They were located as soon as the water fell and prospected the entire journey back. Gold was discovered in very quantities on all the bars, excepting of those situated within the west of Rocky Mountains. Owing to the want of provisions they had to return to Mt. Leck's Lake, bringing with them the sum of \$1000. They were obtained by working for two or three days on those bars which presented the most promise, on their way back.

The least difficulties, on their way to the big best day's work was \$65 to the big Meers Carney and Onat wintered that year. Queensberry; but before the winter set they took the precaution to return to Lead's Lake and store at the Hudson for a sufficient quantity of provisions for five men for the coming season. In month of June, which they considered a little late, they reached Peace River again, company with three others, named Pease, Toy, Joseph Oates, and Ezra Evans. They did fifty days' washing, spending the rest of the season prospecting, and returned in month of October with \$1200 each. They found scarcely a single bar that did not run \$10 to \$15 a day to the hand for one day's work. After working fifty days on the river they ascended the Findlay River from its junction with the former stream, and found a better prospect than ever. Making the latter part of 1862 five more made their appearance on Peace River. Four were in one company and did twelve days' washing, taking out about \$1000. The remaining prospector was just in time to return in search of washers, and consequently, did not succeed by his expectation. The gold was somewhat heavier than that of Fraser, and is what is known as aculeate gold.

Up to 1862 this was all that was known of a territory which is now likely to exert immense influence upon the future development of this colony. From the *Cariboo Sentinel* of Dec. 4th, 1869, we find that in the month of January, 1863, Peter Bell, Sam Smith and three others left Victoria for the Peace River country to prospect for gold. Of course they endured considerable hardships and privations, but in the main the results of their expedition were eminently successful, and by the result of their labors substantiated the reports of 1862. Peter Bell now resides in Barkerville, and it is from him personally the editor of the *Sentinel* last year obtained the report we now publish. From it, says, when they came to the Peace River they commenced prospecting and found fine gold, as in Fraser River, wherever they looked for it. On the bars they could obtain an ounce a day to the hand. But was not the rate of pay to satisfy any man years ago, at so great a distance as were from the sources of supply, and they proceeded along the river—prospecting they went and still finding gold in about the same quantities as before—until they went to Findlay's branch of Peace River, distant from the junction at the

distance between the junction of the river and the slough might be about miles. At the place where the rivers there are numerous bays and islands, and water for a distance of three miles was a mass devoid of motion. They did not expect here, but leaving Peace River and going into Fiend's branch by the left, they went a distance of about three miles before the current of the river was found rapid. At the point where this change of current commenced they landed and crossed a sandbar or beach of gravel. Next day they commenced pulling. After stripping the five to six foot logs down they struck a strata of gravel and they striding gravel. For gravel of black sand and the washed out gravel to \$50 per day to the bend. They said that gravel was found as deep as 100 feet about the whole extent of their dig, and they commenced at work about noon using a rocker. By this time their timber grub, obtained at the trading post at Lead Lake, had increased so much that it became necessary to return for more. Lead however of returning to McLean.

they determined to go up the Findlay to Fort St John, which they considered

to Fort St Johns, which they considered to be only about an equal distance from them, as the trading post at the time was believed by the party that command would be found farther up the river, while on their way to the fort they prospected for better diggings and in the

of finding such they would not re-
turn back again and thus be near to
they thought they could be regularly supplied
with provisions. Accordingly they
for Fort St John, and as they went
river and discovered two fine gold-

they anticipated, they found gold in some places coarse enough to be saved without the use of quicksilver. It was really gold, like that found in the benches of the Fraser. Prospecting detained them until provisions became so short that they were compelled to make for the fort as rapidly as possible, and after going upstream through the Rocky Mountains about 30 or 50 miles they left the boat and arrived at the fort, completely out of provisions and very much exhausted. Such is all the information of a reliable nature we have been able to obtain relating to the early expeditions which led to the conclusion that Peace River territory was rich in gold, and that the deposits of the precious metal were also extensive. We have all deep interest in the developments of the ensuing summer, to which the public mind naturally turns with feverish anxiety, but we think it will be found, on a careful and reasonable balancing of the further facts developed by the expedition fitted out last summer, that the hope of great discoveries being made are by no means ill-founded.

It may appear strange to many, taking into consideration the nature of the early reports, that a territory of such promise should be neglected for so long a period, if these reports were really credited. But many reasons can be assigned for this delay, of more force, too, than the reasonable given for neglecting other colonial enterprises of promise, which with a little well-directed energy would long since have been successful. The statement of Goldenfirth and party no doubt had much to do with it, for, on returning, when their provisions were exhausted, they were reduced to great privations, having at times to eat morsel grass and to make tea from wild mint found in the neighborhood of lakes. It must be remembered that in those early days it was no trifling task to pack provisions and tools, sufficient to meet the emergencies of the case, so far and through a country where not the first article of any description could be obtained, while the expense of the outfit itself was not within the means of any man who might desire to explore it more thoroughly. But principally, it must be remembered, that Cariboo had burst into glory, where no man lacked employment at enormous wages and where all had a chance of securing a rich claim. It was only natural that Peace River should be forgotten, or at least over-looked for a time, although several men in the meantime, viz. in 1865 and 1867, who traded through those regions for furs or their own account, continued to revive the tales about rich diggings existing. Two men named Davis and Johns, for traders brought in some gold during these years, having found the Indians with whom their trapping expeditions brought them into communication possessing more or less.

Some where about 1864, a Caribbo mine named Michael Foyle went over to Omineca and has been away years in these regions, but has leaving left his property in 1863, his precise whereabouts at present is not known. His friends say he has accumulated a large amount of money. About one year ago he was remitted \$3,500 in gold to his daughter residing on the mainland. Foyle's party returned on going with them between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in dust. Again in 1868 a party of four men, Humphreys, Gaylord, Evans and Davis, commonly known as twelve-foot Davis, struck Arrow creek, which will be mentioned hereafter, and returned the same year. Humphreys remained at Quetow mouth that winter working for a while to return to Omineca—representing constantly to all parties that beyond all doubt the mine in that section were well worthy the attention of the public, and he worked incessantly to induce men at Quetow to fit out prospecting parties for a two years' expedition. Michael Byrnes and Vital La Force two men who had been employed by the Western Union Telegraph Company in exploring for the telegraph route, were fortunately wintering in the vicinity and used their influence in the same direction, being satisfied that extensive gold fields existed in the section. Hence it will be seen that really after all, there was no leagheoned party between 1861 and 1869 without our recognizing, in one way or another, confirmatory reports of the existence and richness of the diamonds in question.

We now arrive at the period, 1869, when a thorough investigation of the matter was resolved upon. From the condition of Cambridge and Kootenay, although still yielding largely, it occurred to several public spirited gentlemen of the Interior and this city, that if the prosperity of the colony must be immediately revived a new gold field must be discovered. Hence an expedition to Peace River, composed of reliable men and others who were qualified for the work, was suggested and the necessary steps taken to procure once a suitable outfit. From two Government and private individuals the respectable sum of \$2200 was collected for that purpose and the choice of men fell upon Messrs. Byrnes, Wm Humphrey, Vital Le, John Hawkins, Grant and Kelley. Their expedition, which will be spoken of as the Government party, to distinguish it from the Chapman party that followed at the same time, left Quesnelmouth at the beginning of last May, and in October news was received through different channels that they had made a most important discovery.

There can be no doubt, nor do we pretend to disguise the fact, that our estimate of the importance of their discovery to the country depends upon the motives which prompted their expedition. If they acted wrongfully and dishonestly, if they betrayed the confidence the public from the most base selfishness, it is only right they should be exposed. We propose simply to judge them by their own actions and let subsequent events, so far as they have occurred, decide the question. It is well known that such of this party as returned for LaFayette and Kelly remained behind to make arrangements for the ensuing season to give a verbal statement merely to their employers, so unsatisfactory in its nature and utterly at variance with the reports previously received at Quasnebourg through the channels of the railroad that their employers gave a written report as follows:

Queensmouth, Oct 24th, 1869.
Messrs G B Wright, P O Dunlevy and E
E Dewdney—GENTLEMEN:—We send you
following report of the Peace River pro-
pecting party: The party of six men left Que-
ensmouth on the 3d of last May and arrived

Bulkeley House on the 6th June, and left there for the headwaters of Findlay's Branch on the 6th of that month—course nearly N.E. for 50 miles and on a very difficult route. There is much brush and many fallen trees, with some troublesome swamps. We began prospecting on the 21st June and were fortunate enough to find some gold in a small creek on that date. We worked three months and a half with two strings of sluices and took out 35 ounces to each man in that time. The diggings are shallow. We have worked 800 feet of ground. I send you a sample of the gold taken out. We have prospected each way from where we have located for about twenty miles without finding any other paying prospect. There is a narrow range of blue and yellow (alcove slate) with innumerable small veins of quartz intersecting it—general course N.W. and S.E. This range is cut off at the south fork of Findlay's Branch by a continuous range of granite. We then took out supplies on the snow. We shall then be better able to prospect next season and ascertain with certainty whether the new district will pay or not. A rush of miners to that section, until the extent and value of it is better known, can only prove disastrous and result in serious injury to the colony. It is better, perhaps, not to publish this report in the public prints until something more may be known of the country.

We have found a few pieces of native silver
and some indications of copper.
Please accept our sincere thanks for your
kind assistance to the expedition.

Your obedient servant,
MICHAEL W BYRNES,

This report was no more satisfactory than the first statement, and if anything rather increased public criticism, because they had made different statements to their personal friends, and were proved to be in possession of large sums of dust. Humphreys, having about the same time deposited on his own account 70 ounces in the assay office at Barkersville. Taking these facts as they stand, the *Cariboo Sentinel* of 27th Oct. speaks of them in the following severe terms:

THE PEACE RIVER EXPEDITION.—It is generally reported that the exploring party who have lately returned to Quesnelmouth have purposely concealed the true facts relating to their experience of the country, they were sent to explore and prospect, and that they have struck much better gold than had been supposed, and that they are desirous of acknowledging the same. By the express which left on Monday Feb. Black and John McLane left to Quesnelmouth to placate the expeditionists who intend to return immediately to the Peace River country. It is said that Black received a letter urging him to leave all his interests here and join the returning party. Another invitation of like urgent character; it is said was forwarded to Duncan McMartin at Keithley creek, who thereupon left for Quesnelmouth. All this and much more leading to the inference that the expeditionists have undervalued the facts for selfish purposes of their own, is the common topic of conversation here. We know that application was made to the Gold Commissioner here to allow the party to pre-empt claims of more than the legal size, and was very properly refused. Government money and money obtained by public subscription sent out on the expedition, and giving their friends the preference, and the benefits of the discovery, where no preference should be given, but a fair field and no favor, the explorers have acted unfairly. They have no right whatever to monopolize for themselves and friends the benefits of the discoveries. (The Government and the people who gave the funds for their equipment are entitled to a full and fair report of everything they have done during their absence.

The suspicion which immediately attached itself to the statements of the Government party on their return to Queensland sprang chiefly from their actions, and but for the utterance of the press and the presence of the public opinion it is not likely that the details which gradually leaked out would have been known at all from their this season. Immediately after their return independent of the money deposited by Holmphyre at Barkerville, who all through his life was extremely reticent, but delivered out to his friends that there was something worth retaining for, they were known to be purchasing provisions, tools, etc. on a large scale, and otherwise preparing to make speedy return. It was naturally surmised that these men, who a few months previously had no money amongst them, would be able to do all these things if they had brought back a large sum from the mines. During this discussion a letter was received at Queensland from Mr. Ogden, H.B. Magistrate at South Lake, stating that he had just received from them on their way down \$2500 in gold dust for provisions, and they could at the same time have purchased tools from him, the presumption is that it would not have returned to it the end of the present year. Notplussed by this evidence against them they have ended their departure, but not before one of the party, who a little under the influence, admitted that the great amount taken out in 35 days' work by the Government party— independent of the Chamaud party of three— amounted to about \$8,000, an amount which with the sum paid to Mr. Ogden (the sum deposited by Holmphyre) and different other sums paid to parties in Victoria and elsewhere could be accounted for by outsiders.

It was now determined upon by certain miners in Cariboo to dispatch another party at once to Peace River to ascertain the truth in the shortest possible time, and several well known men, Dowie Kane, and R. St. George, were selected. That these men fully performed the arduous duty required of them is shown by the following extract from the *Cariboo Sentinel* of 11th December, 1886, by which it will be seen they overtook the ex-government party who had already started back to the mines by the time they reached Fort St. James:

THE PEACE RIVER PARTIES—Information as to the progress of the Peace River party reached Quinselmouth a few days ago. The boat had arrived at Stuart's lake on the 27th N vember. Kane and Sylvester, who went by the Telegraph company's trail, had arrived first at Fort St. James, and had before the other parties, who went on river boats, arrived there. It is said that the ex-government party were very impatient at this, and two of them were heard to say that they had been passed, indeed to set out in a canoe to overtake the quick-travelers, and arrive at the new diggings first to take their choice of claims. The ex-government party had expressed gr

disrespectful at one of his number. Who, while at Quabbin, had been too communicative—that is to say, he had told more of the truth about the new diggings than had been desired and agreed upon by the rest. All recourse now appears to be dispensed with, and the party generally acknowledged, while at Fort St. James, that the diggings were far richer than they had reported them to be. So far, all have been very fortunate as regards weather. There was no ice in Situata lake, and if Lake Tashia were also open they would meet with no difficulty in reaching the diggings. Judging from the weather here, where we are probably 2000 feet higher than at any point on the way, except the pass between Lakes Tashia and the new mines, we should think that all the parties would easily reach their destination.

Shortly previous to reaching the mines Kane and Sylvester, not knowing the route, in turn were overtaken by the quick travelers of the ex-governor party, who adopted all sorts of dodges to elude and leave them behind. Finally they compromised the matter on condition that the ex-governor party should be allowed to travel in the same stage with Kane and Sylvester, and offered a bribe of five hundred dollars for their safe off for himself and party. Under this arrangement they traveled together to Van's creek and thence Kane and his associate had an opportunity of seeing and hearing everything that had been done by the first expedition. Sylvester was then left in charge of the ground now known as the Adams claim, and Kane returned to Barkerville and made the following report which we extract from the *Cariboo Sentinel* of 16th Dec, on account of its supplying this information as to the

Mr. Dennis Kase returned to Barker's express from Queneamouth on Thursday, having just arrived from the new mines. The country in which the mines are situated is known as the Onondaga country. Mr. Kase left Queneamouth on the 20th. October, together with Mr. R. Sylvestor, for the new diggings. They took with them several boats loaded with provisions and started on the tele-graph trail opposite Queneamouth and arrived at Stuart's Lake on November 11th. The trail was very good all the way to Fort Fraser on Fraser Lake, a distance of about 180 miles from Queneamouth. From Fort Fraser to Stuart's Lake, or Fort St. James, a distance of about 40 miles, the trail is obstructed in many places by burned timber and a guide is necessary. The only guide this party had was a Hudson Bay horse, which knew the road and led them safely to their destination. At Nicola River, before arriving at Fraser Lake, they were detained a half day in crossing. Mr. P. S. Odden kindly furnished them with a canoe and two men, and the animals got over by swimming. From Queneamouth to Fraser Lake they found an abundance of grass on the trail, and for the distance in mountainous country, they thought it the best all they had ever passed over.

Kane and Sylvester proceeded in a boat up Stuart's lake, taking with them up food and provisions. After passing up Stuart's lake about 37 miles then came to Troutley river. There the two followed the river about 27 miles which brought them to Troutley lake. This lake is about 5 miles wide and apparently of great length. In order to reach the narrow point for crossing to the lake they had to pass along the left side of the lake for 3 miles. From Troutley lake to Lake Taltah up Taltah river, the distance is about 22 1/2 miles, still water all the way. On reaching Taltah lake they proceeded to a point on the northwest side, up the lake a distance of 60 miles to the place known as the Landing, which is the end of boat passage. The above distance is about 150 miles. The boat was left for 8 days without coming to the Landing is about 180 miles and was made in six days. After leaving the Landing these commenced their great difficulty, requiring five days to travel a distance of fifty miles to Val Creek. On arriving at the creek they found a few L. Forpe after whom they had been looking for. J. Kelly, the only boat man, had been peeling and obliged to cease from work.

On Vinal or Mt. Kane saw that work had been done in spots of four or five hundred feet, but no water had been struck. On the 29th, Nov. Hartley and Grant, of the discovery party, arrived on the creek, and immediately selected ground, leaving the ground claimed by Chapman and company. Kane and Sylvestre located ground above. The first work on the creek is about 1 1/2 miles from the mouth. The diggings there worked ate from two to four feet deep growing deeper farther up the stream. The creek is about the same in appearance throughout a distance of one to two miles, and where it had been worked, and that it is made into two branches and becomes steeper, oval in cross section. It is on boundary 3540 and

**The Indian Murders—Extract from
Private Letter from Knight's Inlet.**

FIVE
GIANMIR H. DER, Feb 24, 1870.

FIVE
make spread the news of the state of affairs here. Six Indians were murdered yesterday, and to-day my store was robbed of much of its goods. The murdering Indians, both of complaint to Mr. Pemberton, it claims Kinkaid's murder, and if the Government will not take the matter in hand, there will have to be a company raised to punish the natives. The Indians think that a gun boat will never be sent up to punish them, and there is no knowing what they may do. They are worse than they were ten years ago.

JAMES F. McGRATH.

Our modern course of living begets a condition of the body that requires occasional relief. The system becomes clogged, deranged, clogged, and labors in task. To mind sympathizes with it and both sink, are depressed together. To restore the energies, put the system clean—the bin—take Ayer's Pills. [Glasgow (K) Fr Press]

Important Information !!

▲ Good Appetite,
▲ Vigorous Digestion, and
▲ A Healthy Liver,
Are these and Firms that Collects of a course of Bristol
sugar-coated Pills and Bristol's Serravallo.