

European Mail Summary.

The latest mails from South Africa bring us the news that there numerous claimants for the great eighty-two carat diamond recently found and valued at £20,000. Eighty persons declare that in December last they negotiated a secret arrangement with Waterboer, chief of the Griekwas tribe. He transferred to them all his claims. They assert that the diamond referred to was found in Waterboer's country, and have procured an interdict on the gem in the Supreme Court until their claims were settled. The owners of the diamond assert that it was found on British territory at Loith. The Friend of the Free State is responsible for the story that the diamond was not found in either of those places, but has been in possession of the Kafir or Hottentot doctor (from whom it was obtained by Niekerk), for the last ten or twelve years, and by whom it has, during that time, been constantly used as toovergoed, or for purposes of Kafir witchcraft. There were twenty more diamonds recently found in the hands of different persons at Cape Town. However, when it became known that the above interdict was served, not a single individual could be found to own that he had one. The correspondent of The Graff Reinet Herald writes there are reports of another diamond larger than the eighty-two and a half carat one having been found in South Africa. The offer of justice to Ireland is a ready producing its natural effect. The Orangemen are marching about Ulster in huge armed bodies, and threaten demonstrations for July so serious that Mr. Chichester Fortescue promises watchfulness, and if necessary repression. The Catholics however, take no umbrage, and their best organ, the Dublin Evening Post, exhorts them to take none, even in July, but to abstain from all interference, not out of contempt, but out of good-humor and forbearing friendliness for brother Irishmen. Marshal Serrano has taken the oath as Regent of Spain, and has appointed General Prim Premier and Minister of War. General Prim tells the Cortes he shall suppress disorder with firmness, 'aye, even with cruelty,' and will make any economies but such as are sure to be unproductive. Moreover, the State must obtain pennies which do not cost other pennies to get. That is interpreted to mean that the Government will propose new taxes instead of further loans, but it may also mean that it will increase existing taxes. The Spectator says it seems that the prosecution of the defendants in the Overend Gurney case is likely to fall through. The prosecutor, Dr. Thom, being already a heavy loser, is unwilling or unable to expend more money, and applied to the Treasury to carry on the case. The Treasury refused. Dr. Thom then requested the Court of Queen's Bench to let him prosecute in person; but the Court declined, deeming no doubt, the middle into which lay presenters are apt to bring their cases. Dr. Thom, therefore, who in fact represents the public in the matter, will be compelled either to drop the prosecution, or continue it languidly and unwillingly. The argument of the Treasury doubtless is, that if Government prosecutes in this case it ought to prosecute in every other in which a private prosecutor fails; but "my Lords" forget that national misfortunes justify even Parliamentary inquiry followed this failure, and were, it is believed, produced by it. Thorough investigation becomes, therefore, of national, and not merely of private importance. A meeting was held lately in London under the presidency of the Prince of Wales, to concert measures for doing honor to the memory of the greatest scientific man of this generation—the late Dr. Faraday. It was decided to open a subscription list,—no subscription to exceed five guineas,—and to appoint a committee to consider the best mode of effecting this purpose, which is likely, it is said, to assume the form of a monument in St. Paul's Cathedral. The chief feature of the meeting was a very touching and eloquent tribute to Faraday's memory by a distinguished French chemist, M. Dumas, who seems to have spoken as eloquent English as if he had been born in England. The Emperor Napoleon on June 24th addressed such of the soldiers at Chalons as had served in the Italian war. He bade them "keep always in their hearts the remembrance of their battles," for the "history of French wars is the history of the progress of civilization."

The "military spirit is the triumph of noble over vulgar passions." "Fidelity to the standard is devotion to one's country." "Continue as in the past, and you will maintain that military spirit so necessary for a great people." Considering that this speech is made ten years after the Italian war, that no incident has given rise to it, and that nothing calls for a display of the military spirit, its tone cannot be deemed "eminently pacific." The silk manufacturers of Coventry have petitioned Parliament for relief. They want a customs duty imposed upon foreign manufactured silks, to protect the home-made fabric. A commission was appointed to examine into the existing scale, not, as might be supposed, with a view to granting the prayer, but as Mr. Bright said, to knock off the duties on other articles, if found advisable. The London Times lately had to publish an erratum to a notice of a religious ceremony saying that the word "malefactors" should have been "male actors."

The death of the British Columbian ought to convince even the most obtuse or prejudiced person that Victoria is unable to support two daily newspapers. We experience no feeling of exultation in chronicling the demise of our cotemporary. On the contrary, we should be glad were the city in a sufficiently prosperous state to support half-a-dozen journals. Backed by ability, money and influential friends, our cotemporary, after an existence of a little over four months, has shared the fate that many journalists have met before him in this Colony. Prior to the Columbian removing to Victoria we ventured to predict for it a financial failure; this prediction was accepted as evidence on our part of a desire to "frighten off opposition," and we have since held our peace and patiently abided the issue. We do not think that the friends and supporters of the Columbian can be taxed with insincerity. They were misled by highly-colored and erroneous reports concerning the profits of the printing business, and have themselves suffered financially for their credulity. It might be advisable in the future, however, if, before counselling any person to embark in a similar enterprise, people were to inquire more closely into the truth of idle stories that may from time to time claim their attention. What prudent business man would himself engage in any enterprise without first carefully weighing his prospects? And how much more careful ought he to be in proffering to another advice based upon idle or malicious rumor—particularly when the person advised, in the event of failure, would involve not only himself but those dependent upon him in ruin?

The Law is supposed never to be vindictive, and its machinery is put in motion against malefactors to furnish an example that will deter others from the commission of crime. It is folly for men to cry out against the public execution of Indian criminals. Example is everything, and the greater the number of natives assembled to witness the execution the greater the security that can be guaranteed our settlers. Seeing it believing with an Indian. Build the jail fences high and exclude every native from witnessing executions, and the effect of the example would be lost on the tribes, because they could never be brought to believe that their friends was not still alive. We hang a man because we wish to exert a wholesome moral influence upon the living.

Monday July 26. NAVAL ITEMS.—H.M.S. Zealous, after leaving Payta, Peru, under steam for Callao, encountered a heavy gale and was three days in making 100 miles; falling short of coal, she put back under sail to Payta, where H.M.S. Ringdove, Reindeer, Charybdis and Boxer were inspected by Admiral Hastings, and the Charybdis and Boxer sailed immediately for this station. The Cameleon is expected here hourly; the Boxer and Charybdis in the course of a fortnight or three weeks. H.M.S. Satellite will be caulked and sail from this station shortly after the arrival of the Cameleon, and will go for home in a twelvemonth with the flying squadron. The Soylla, now attached to the flying squadron, will remain on this station.

THE BARCLAY SOUND MURDERERS.—These doomed men will be placed on board H. M. S. Sparrowhawk to-day, conveyed to the spot where the blood of their victims cries aloud for vengeance, and there hanged in the presence of the whole tribe. A detachment of marines from H. M. S. Satellite, under Lieut. Wright, will accompany the expedition to preserve order.

The Pic-Nic.

The Annual Picnic for the benefit of the charitable fund of the Victoria Fire Department was, as it should be for the credit of the city, perfectly successful. The Firemen from the different companies assembled at the Deluge Company's Engine House at one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and from thence marched with their fine band to the beautiful piece of ground known as Medina's Grove; than which no better place could have been chosen for the purpose. Arrived at the ground, the agile fellows were soon everywhere exerting themselves to make the arrangements as complete as possible for the reception of visitors, and we may safely say that arrangements of the kind were never more perfect at such entertainments than on Saturday last. The platform for dancing was an improvement upon any that we have seen devoted to Terpsichorean enjoyment, in being nicely covered with an awning, to which variegated lamps were hung, the latter when lighted producing quite a fine effect. The band was also quite superior to some we have had the misfortune to listen to lately, and aided in a great measure to make the affair a real scene of enjoyment. We noticed among those on the ground the Administrator of the Government, Chief Justice Needham, Mrs. Needham, Miss Needham, Sir James Douglas and daughter, Captains Edge and Mist, Royal Navy, and other prominent persons. The games were productive of some remarkable feats of muscular prowess, and the races created great fun, our worthy Mayor and His Honor the Chief Justice distinguishing themselves to the great delight of their lusty competitors, in the various exercises, although neither of the former gentlemen carried off a prize. The refreshments were provided by McNeill and Piper in their several departments, and of course these names are sufficient guarantees for the excellence of the materials provided. In the evening a number of the more matured, in company with the juvenile portion of the visitors, betook themselves to their homes, leaving the stage clear for the young people of both sexes, who continued to turn the fleeting hours to profitable account until midnight warned them to desist. The Firemen's picnic will impress our citizens with the fact that these useful members of society are not to be beaten at anything.

The following is a list of the games and prizes:

- STANDING JUMP. 1st Prize, Zeigler distance 10ft 5inches 2nd " J Madden " 10 4
- RUNNING LEIGH JUMP. 1st Prize, Crookford height 4ft 2inches 2nd " Fisher
- PUTTING LIGHT STONE. 1st Prize, Kennedy distance 26ft 9inches 2nd " Humber " 25 8
- PUTTING HEAVY STONE. 1st Prize, Kennedy distance 19ft 2nd " J Madden " 18 6in
- TOSSING THE CABER. 1st Prize, Kennedy distance 21ft 5inches 2nd " Page " 20
- TROWING LIGHT HAMMER. 1st Prize, Robertson distance 34ft 2nd " Wilson " 62 10in
- TROWING HEAVY HAMMER. 1st Prize, Robertson distance 57ft 5inches 2nd " Kennedy " 51 9
- FOOT RACE, 300 YARDS. 1st Prize, Zeigler; 2nd Prize, Louis. In this race His Hon. Chief Justice Needham ran the full 300 yards and contested stoutly for the laurel.
- BOYS' RACE. 1st Prize, Durban; 2nd Prize, Harris. SACK RACE, 100 YARDS. 1st Prize, Currie; 2nd, Baker. A Lieutenant of H. M. S. Satellite and Mr. Fell, made an attempt at this race, but the maladresse of the first and the ponderous weight of the latter left them far behind.
- BLIND RACE, 100 YARDS. 1st Prize, Norris; 2nd, Currie.

THE SEWARD PARTY reached Nanaimo on Friday (after having made the round of the Sound and being well received at every port) They were received by Messrs Spalding, Bate and Bryden. In the evening, on board the steamer Wilson G Hunt, the party were entertained at dinner, at which Mr Seward and other gentlemen made short speeches eulogizing the geographical position of Puget Sound and prophesying for it a great future. Mr Seward proposed the health of the Queen, the sovereign lady of Great Britain. Dr. Franklyn proposed the health of the President of the United States, which was responded to by Mr Consul Francis who also toasted Mr Seward. During the day Mr Seward visited the works of the Nanaimo Coal Company, descending into the pit and expressing himself greatly pleased with what he saw there. The party went on board the Active on Friday night, and sailed for Sitka on the following morning. The Hunt sailed for Victoria on Saturday morning, and made the quickest time on record between the two ports—five hours and ten minutes.

THE slouch on Yates street, between Langley and Government, is perfectly overpowering. Passers by, to escape suffocation, hold their noses and hurry on as if the place were plague-stricken. When do the Sanitary Committee commence operations?

LOCAL BRUYERS.

The steamers Enterprise and Sir James Douglas arrived on Saturday. From New Westminster we learn that forest fires prevail to a great extent along the banks of the Fraser. From the East Coast there is no news, except the arrival and departure of Mr Seward and party. The telegraph cable has rewarded the repairers by breaking in two, both ends going overhead. There must be some chemical agent in the vicinity of the disputed islands that corrodes or rots the cable; or perhaps the frequent breaking of the cable is Nature's protest against annexation. Very likely. Fine fat salmon from the Fraser were sold on Hudson Bay Co's wharf, on Saturday, at \$1 per doz! If the toiling, half starved millions of Europe had but the chance! The legal gentlemen of this city have formed a Law Society and elected Hon. Mr. King President; Hon. Mr. Drake Vice President; and J. F. McCreight, Esq., Treasurer. The steamship Moses Taylor sailed for San Francisco at 10 45 o'clock on Saturday morning. The "last man" (there's always a last man, went tearing along Esquimalt road about ten minutes after the steamer had passed "Figuard Light, and of course remains behind.

SOUTH SAANICH.—The hay crop is all in and is a heavy one. The barley is being harvested; the yield is light. Root crops, generally, are a failure for want of rain. The wheat looks poor and thin. Fires are raging on the East and West roads, and the corduroy near Simpson's is burning, and the road has sunk three feet. The road party are encamped about half-a-mile from the corduroy, and the road will be repaired to-day. A fine bridge has been built at Sandy Hill. The bridge and grading are creditable to Mr Titus the contractor.

A LOW TRICK.—Several horses were de-nuded of bridles while their owners were enjoying themselves at the pic-nic. In one instance, an unknown scalliwag stole the reins and bridle from a horse, leaving the remainder of a harness intact. It must be a mean, low spirit that dictates tricks of this character, and whether the articles were taken in joke or earnest, the parties, when discovered, ought to be punished.

THE CAMP MEETING.—About 350 ladies, gentlemen and children have congregated at Maple Bay for the purpose of taking part in the Wesleyan Camp Meeting. They came from Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster, and the country districts; Nanaimo sent 40 to the scene. Tents are erected in the woods for the accommodation of the worshippers, and religious exercises are held at stated periods of the day.

EXECUTION.—Loh-yet-ah, the murderer of Wm. Robinson, was hanged Saturday in front of the police barracks. The condemned man made an effort to address his people, who pressed around the gallows; but his voice was choked and his sentences unintelligible. He was hanged shortly after 7 o'clock and seemed to suffer little or no pain. The lesson will prove a salutary one to the Indians.

THE name of the late U. S. Revenue Cutter Joe Lane has been changed to H. M. Hatchinson (head of the firm of Hatchinson, Kohl & Co.) She is a beautiful little vessel and came over on Saturday. Mr. Joseph Boscovich, the purchaser, advertises that she will have immediate dispatch for San Francisco, carrying freight and passengers.

FIRE BUCKETS.—Mr. William Dalby, of Yates street, is making from Island leather a dozen fire-buckets for the use of the Hook & Ladder Co. These buckets will be extremely useful in the hands of the truckmen in holding fires in check until the arrival of the engines.

RETURNING OFFICER.—Hon. A. T. Bushby has been appointed returning officer for the ensuing New Westminster Municipal Council election.

THE Moses Taylor's freight was brought from Esquimalt by the steamer Otter. It comprises about 175 tons of general merchandise.

THE U.S. Pensacola is daily expected to arrive here from San Francisco. We are unable to state her day of sailing from that port.

THE decision of the Chief Justice in the suit of Dassol vs. the S.C. & V.I. Mill Co. is expected to-day.

THE Gussie Tellair probably connected with the Pacific from San Francisco at Astoria on Sunday.

An old and experienced physician says, "much that he learned under the name of Science has died out, but his simple homely experience has largely taken the place of that scholastic knowledge to which he had recourse." The fact is, that "simple homely experience" is the gist of his scholastic attainments, and a really successful medicine, compounded of vegetable products, like Dr. Walker's Vegetable Compound, proves the scientific research that has made it such.

British Columbia.

From the Montreal Gazette. We have received a letter from a well informed correspondent at Victoria, British Columbia, under date June 3d, from which we make the following extract:—"I have not written for some time, for the simple reason that nothing has occurred worth writing about for many months past—everything being unutterably dull. So little rain or snow has fallen this winter in the mining country that it is feared the mining operations will be materially checked. Agriculture, however, has made rapid strides during the past year but there is ample room for further enterprise, even without a protective tariff, so long as we are obliged to send out of the colony nearly half a million dollars per annum for the purchase of farm produce from Oregon and California. The Legislature recently passed a very liberal mining law, doing away with all leases and governmental restrictions, and giving a grant of the land necessary on proof of bona fide working. Capital is in San Francisco have turned their attention to the matter, and have invested in coal mines on the island. The question of confederation will come up again during the next session of the council. In the last session there was a majority against the scheme of two to one—principally gained by the votes of official members. Unless the Imperial Government express their opinion in favor of the Governor here, I fear the official vote will go against the measure for another year. The farming interest is afraid of the almost free trade in grain, &c., which will be the result of the Canadian Customs prevailing here. But in one thing all are agreed, that the present system of government is unadvised to us." Our correspondent adds that he himself is in favor of Confederation, if fair and reasonable terms can be obtained.

If the Dominion is ever to hold rank as a northern nation it must stretch across the continent and have access to the Pacific ocean. The thick settlement of the fertile belt in the newly acquired territory will have a most powerful influence on this question—in fact will determine it, as for a very important commerce, the Pacific will be its natural sea-board.

That here will be, and that in the immediate future, a dense population settled on the fertile lands and in the favorable climate of the North West is not a question which, in our minds at least, admits of a doubt; and things move very quickly in these days on this continent. In this view, the great coal deposits at Vancouver Island and Nova Scotia, the terminus of the shortest and, for many reasons, the best railroad line across the continent, upon the most favorable line of travel between the east and the west of the hemisphere, seem to point at some future day to a great commerce, which will pass through Montreal: A thick population of the Red River territory would settle the question of the railway. And the deposits of coal at the points we have named, and its large quantities in the centre of the continent would seem as if foreordained of Providence to settle the question of motive power.

These are the dreams of the future. We cannot say how soon the facts will come. The physical and climatic conditions are there, but the energy of man is yet to be loosed. And we have in the immediate present to deal with what is. This, from all accounts we have been able to gather, in Vancouver Island is not in the most satisfactory state. The Government and legislative body are, we understand, mostly composed of official persons, without much responsibility to the people, while they consume a considerable portion of the revenue, which is high for the population. They, it appears from the letter of our correspondent, are not willing to change, for them, the pleasant state of things; while we have heard from another source that a considerable portion of the people would be glad of annexation to escape from the thraldom.

There comes another practical question and that is communication by roads. We believe one good road has been in a great part constructed, on the British Columbia side; and the Canadian Government are going to make a summer road to the Red River territory. The progress of population will have to determine the question of further development of communication.

Whatever may be the means taken it is greatly important that the British Columbia should act in unison with the Dominion, and unless there is some question if the Colonies on the Pacific will remain British; and this, we repeat, would be a serious if not a fatal blow to the future independence of the Dominion. It is in this view that the question of arrangement between the Dominion and the Pacific coast assumes its present importance.

A gentleman, in the course of a journey in the West, one day suddenly descried a country tavern, in the porch of which sat one of the oldest white-haired men he had ever seen, crying like a child. In answer to an enquiry as to the cause, he sobbed out: "My father has just licked me." Upon entering the bar-room the traveller discovered another and much older man behind the bar, whom he addressed: "You seem to have some trouble here, stranger. Your son informs me that you have whipped him." "Yes," rejoined the landlord, excitedly, "I could not avoid it. The young rascal was chasing his grandfather round a ten-acre lot and stoning him. I had to interfere, stranger."

FRANCE.—The alarming condition of affairs among the working classes throughout the Empire is attracting serious attention. In Besennois the factory men are working on four hours' time—there is no trade of any kind, and disturbances are of frequent occurrence. Gangs of men prowled about the streets assaulting, citizens, breaking shop-windows, smashing gas-lights and plundering stores. Universal dissatisfaction reigns throughout the entire section of country.

CHARLES DESBOUCH, late of New Orleans, dying, left valuable property to his heir, then in France. A clever fellow perjured the legate, and lived, and recently died in possession of the estate, leaving it to children of his own. Meantime the children of the first defrauded possessor, who is dead, sue for the property, and the one point of right is warring against the nine points of law with great vigor.

By Elect

SPECIAL TO... BURRARD INLET... CHILLIWACK, J... flourishing; the... favorable for farm... ed and the grain h... about ten days... ranches there ha... Timothy hay made... New Westmin... run of salmon sti... files are being pu... dry, and fires rag... The sloop Marit... Union, Capt Bain... trips between here... seem to be doing v...

From the B... LOPEZ ISLAND... cable from Fidal... Rock yesterday... then we came We... grappled it in for... raised it and unde... got a slight curve... flect to work, the... battery being very... between that piec... We will get a prop... test the cable, if... will be made by t... cable will be rais... Weather calm, see...

Seco... ROSARIO STRAIT... the cable was fou... commenced raisin... coming in very mu... obfling against the... cable parted aga... per Island and die... portion we had r... menced raising fr... breaks again it is... cable. It will now... before communicat... all the cable requi... return to Victoria... are still raging fier... and South, and bet... land. It seems the... Telegraph Compan...

Delayed... MEMPHIS, JU... was shot in front... afternoon by Dic... tion of a family... duration, which... the killing and ex... persons.

The Chinese L... 10 o'clock The... and composed of... land owners fr... States.

The Finance... favor of a joint... society, with offi... pal cities, promi... tion to all emig... elsewhere.

The Transport... ed that emigrant... the Pacific States... of 50 and over, f... Hongkong to San... to \$100 each. Kim Orr, a Ch... two years in th... Louisiana, addr... and stated that o... now in the West... distress prevail... selected with pro... to describe the... of the Chinese, s... adapted to the... the products of... ways similar to... Mr. Koopmans... also addressed th... that his house b... to California, w... engaged in me... work. They are... \$1 10 per day, i... can be induced to... month, but can... cheaper in Chi... contract they cou... per month.

One of the... Alexandria held... to see what shou... members who ve... ticket in the r... Church Treasure... and was removed...