

Wednesday, December 29, 1869.

## Close of the Season.

Another 'open season' has gone. The cheery notes of the sweet warbler no longer greet us from leafy bower.

"The dead leaves strew the forest walk,  
And wither'd are the pale willow flowers;  
The frost hangs black'ning on the stalk,  
The dew-drops fall in frozen showers."

Of all the four seasons, this is, perhaps, most pregnant with salutary lessons—the most suggestive of serious reflection.

Looking back we see

"Flowers in the valley, splendour in the beam,  
Health in the gale, and freshness in the stream."

Looking around we see

"The forest marks the year's last embers,  
Withered and glooming, like yellow and red,  
The dew-drops fall in frozen showers."

Looking forward we see

"An inter coming, to rule the varied year,  
Sullen and sad, with all his rising trails,  
Yapours, and clouds, and storms."

Leaving to the person the work of impressing the solemn lessons suggested by the season, let us glance at the past summer, in the light of its bearing upon the material prosperity of the colony.

Taking gold mining first in order—not, however, that we deem it first in importance—it must be confessed that the past season has not been one of ascertained success.

Viewed in the light of actual results, it has been one of disappointment. Viewed in the light of future prospects, it has been one of hopeful encouragement.

The Cariboo mines have yielded grudgingly; yet there is consolation in the reflection that the faith in the richness and extent of its gold deposits has increased rather than diminished.

Water and capital—which mean much the same thing—alone are needed in order to compel Cariboo to yield up its reluctant treasure.

Indications are not wanting that the water and capital essential to a profitable working of the Cariboo mines will be brought to bear before long.

On the southern frontier the gold mines have not quite realized the expectations formed a year ago; yet the yield has been steady, with a better prospect for next season.

In the result of 'Deep Shaf' we have substantial guarantee for better things in the future; and if the trade of those mines were only secured to the colony by the establishment of fair communication, the result would exert a felt influence upon general prosperity.

The Big Bend mines, although still regarded with the surly eye of disappointed hopes, have been quietly and unostentatiously rewarding persevering effort.

Perhaps in no other part of the colony has the labor of the gold miner been more highly remunerated than on French Creek.

Looking to the future, Peace River would, however, appear to be the centre of attraction. Where so little is positively known, we do not care to dwell; and it would be well to avoid, as far as possible, building great expectations upon the immediate result of these new discoveries.

There would, indeed, appear to be reason for expecting the development of mines in the country drained by Peace River in no way inferior to those of Cariboo; but a premature rush to a locality so remote, and so ill provided with the necessities of life and of successful mining effort could but result in great hardship to a majority of the eager pursuers, and in general injury to more extended interests.

Turning to an interest which, if somewhat less exciting and attractive than gold mining, possesses far greater colonial importance and conduces far more surely to individual well-being, it is most gratifying to be able to announce that the record of the season, which has just closed is a most encouraging and satisfactory one, in so far as agricultural progress is concerned.

Both on the Mainland and the Island we find a growing disposition to engage in this most independent and desirable of all pursuits. Not only have many fresh accessions been made to the ranks of our sturdy yeomanry during this year, but there has been a marked advance on the part of all, perceptible in improved husbandry, improved stock, and enlarged operations, as well as in the cultivation of many things hitherto neglected.

This improvement may, perhaps, be attributable chiefly to the undeniable fact that the farmers are rapidly bettering their circumstances, and that, consequently, afford to conduct their operations upon a better scale. It may, also, in some measure, be attributable to increased interest and attention resulting from the annual Exhibitions, where a comparison of results cannot fail to inspire healthy emulation among the farmers, stock-raisers and fruit-growers.

The commercial interests of the country cannot, we fear, be said to have undergone any very noticeable improvement during the past season; nor is it reasonable to expect that they will until commerce has been relieved from some of those trammels with which it is fettered.

On the Mainland commerce has doubtless been gradually recovering from the rude shock it received during that crisis brought on by a system of reckless over trading, and is being re-

established upon what we venture to hope will prove a solid and enduring basis. This is also doubtless the case to a greater or less extent in the chief commercial town; but it is here that the burdensome restrictions under which commerce still languishes make themselves most keenly felt.

The peculiarly favored geographical position of Victoria entitles her merchants to expect a large foreign trade; but such a trade would appear to be almost cut off by the present fiscal system.

Thus, while it may be truthfully asserted that, in so far as local or domestic trade is concerned, Victoria, in common with the rest of the colony, has experienced some measure of recuperation from past disaster, yet a trade presumably larger than what she at present possesses, continues to be completely lost to the colony, through a mistaken fiscal policy.

Taking the record of the past season all in all, it cannot be said to have been unfavorable in its bearing upon the material prosperity of British Columbia, and we can all find in it abundant cause for gratitude to the Giver of all our good things; and it is to Him that, at this particular season, we ought especially to offer our devout thanks.

## Licensing Court.

The Annual Licensing Court was held yesterday at the Police Barracks. Fifty-five retail licenses were applied for and forty-nine granted. Seven applications were postponed till Thursday next. Seven wholesale licenses were applied for, all of which were granted. Following is the list:

Wholesale.  
Promis & Saunders, Lowe Bros., H. Nathan, J. & Co., J. Ruff, J. B. Stewart, Sprad & Co., Grelley & Fitterer.

Granted.—J. Morais, G. Mason, W. C. S. Seelye, J. Strachan, J. Madry, F. Saunders, J. Higgins, Promis & Saunders, P. Gilligan, W. Marsh, C. Bossi, S. Dried, G. Colman, J. D. Johnson, M. C. Chadwick, P. Smith, T. Golden, Townsend & Giffin, T. J. Brunes, G. Richardson, J. Orr, H. Levy, A. Astico, James Wilcox, J. Burns, Wm. Nichol, Wm. Reid, P. Steele, P. Griffin, J. Duran, W. Sellack, J. T. Smith, J. Wilkins, M. Rowland, W. Smith, J. Walsh, J. Bland, A. Pesta, J. Stevens, Geo. Booth, C. B. Brown, H. Wain, J. B. Sere, Patk. Everett, H. Simpson, C. F. Green.

Postponed.—Joseph Lowen, F. Sehl, McKeon & Trehan, Murphy, Mm. Zinke [Park Hotel], Vedrier and T. Healey.

It may be interesting to state that the highest number of retail liquor licenses granted in any one year was in 1864, when 65 houses were licensed. From the number of applications yesterday it would seem that, however other businesses may have declined, the liquor trade has maintained a spirited and successful warfare with hard times.

The Crown Hotel Fire.—Wm. Young and Thomas Tugwell surrendered to their bail yesterday at the Police Court for further examination on a charge of arson.

Inspector Bowden stated that he had no fresh evidence to offer for the prosecution and the Magistrate said it would not be necessary for Mr. Drake to address the Bench as there was no light thrown on the origin of the fire.

Mr. Drake differed with his Honor. He believed that the fire was accidental, having been caused by the servant-man, Johnson, while clearing hot ashes from the stove. His Honor said the fire was most mysterious, and he did not now wish to express an opinion upon the guilt or innocence of the accused.

The order of the Court was that the accused should enter into their own recognizances to appear in Court again at the expiration of the month. The prisoners signed the usual documents and were discharged.

Under the Ban.—A circumstance recently occurred in Montreal which has given rise to a good deal of discussion, and threatens to occupy the attention of the Civil Courts.

The Institut Canadien, a French literary institution of long and good standing, has been for some time under the ban of the British Church, on account of liberal political and religious views expressed and propagated by the members of the association.

The members of the association were refused to all Catholics who continue members of the Institut. Joseph Guibord, during his life a Catholic, and for many years a member of the Institut, recently died, and the Church authorities absolutely refused his remains burial in consecrated ground.

This proceeding caused much indignation amongst the more liberal French Canadians, and it is understood that the friends of the deceased would commence legal proceedings against the authorities.

The Cowper's Daughter.—A rumor prevailed early yesterday afternoon that the wrecked ship Cowper had been picked up near San Juan Island. The presumption at once was that the Cowper, after being lighted off the 300 tons of coal, had floated off the reef, and the rumor was spread.

The rumor was spread upon a voyage on her own account with the balance of the cargo. The announcement shared up to a fabulous height; but they soon fell below zero when a dispatch from the Island was received by Brodick & Co. stating that only the port side of the ship had come ashore.

It is supposed that the Cowper broke in two at the time of her disappearance from the rock, and that the starboard side was carried down by the weight of the cargo.

A. H. Francis, Fort street, has a full assortment of fruits and confectionery for the holidays. No plum puddings or cake will be perfect except Francis' candied lemon, citron or orange-peel forms a part of it. And as to apples and pears—he challenges the city.

## Educational.

A Committee of the Board of Education for Victoria School District, consisting of John G. McKay, John Russell and J. W. Carey, attended the examinations of the Boys' School, Fort street, on the 21st inst., and submitted the following report:

Your Committee, having examined and heard the examination of the scholars attending said school, and their proficiency during the last half year, in the following branches of education: English, English History, Grammar, Geography, Reading, Writing and Bookkeeping, have great pleasure in testifying to the very creditable manner in which the scholars acquired themselves in the above various branches of learning; and in conclusion, your Committee would further express their great satisfaction at the character of the instruction imparted by the present Teachers, as also at the very successful educational results of their efforts during the past six months.

All of which your Committee respectfully submit.

Signed: JOHN GORDON McKay, JOHN RUSSELL, JOSEPH W. CAREY.

To the Board of Education of Victoria School District, 21st Dec, 1869.

The Masonic Ball.—The Committee for the Masonic Ball have arranged for an entrance to the hall from Government street through the Colonial Hotel, in which suitable retiring rooms will be secured for the accommodation of the ladies and gentlemen attending the ball.

The ball will also be laid in the Hotel. The hall will be the finest of the year. A final meeting of the committee of arrangements will be held to-day at the Colonial Hotel. It is proper that we should state that the Masonic Ball is not given for the purpose of charity, and that every dollar received for tickets will be expended in providing for the comfort and enjoyment of participants.

At it AGAIN.—Our Lilliputian contemporary of the Evening News has another characteristic article on the subject of education. Dwarf as he is, we might have condescended to discuss the subject with our evening contemporary, were such a thing compatible with a proper regard for the public and that respect due to ourselves; but, inasmuch as it perfectly clear that no good purpose can be served by continuing a discussion with one who persists in a systematic misconception of everything advanced, and in imputing to us what we never said or dreamed of, we must be excused if we prefer in future to deal with the subject of education without any reference whatever to anything emanating from that source.

PUGET SOUND AGRICULTURAL COMPANY'S LANDS.—We understand that the Puget Sound Agricultural Co. are preparing to sell at an early date portions of their lands situated between Victoria city and Esquimalt town.

The throwing open of the lands to settlement will be of immense advantage to the city and environs; most of these lands are arable and may be early converted into market gardens, while for residential purposes the sites are the finest in the colony.

DEACONESSES.—In Liverpool two Low Church dignitaries, the Bishop and Dean of Chester, have been giving addresses in favor of the appointment of Deaconesses—women who are to engage in religious work in schools, hospitals, and penitentiaries—only there must be no vows, no confessions, no peculiar costume. They must have the kernel without the rind, in contradistinction to Ritualists, who are thought to have a good deal of the shell and not too much of the kernel.

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Enterprise, Capt. Swanson, arrived from New Westminster last evening, bringing about 40 passengers and a local mail and express, but no Cariboo news, among the passengers were the Hon. A. T. Buntley, E. J. Barrard and Messrs C. H. Pooley, W. Newton and H. Nelson. The Enterprise will be held in New Westminster on Wednesday evening and on a very good business and successful run.

ONE of the most attractive windows in the town is that of the late and lamented confectioner, who moulds sugar into every conceivable shape, attracts the eye, and tempts the palate of his customers. The confectionery obtained at this establishment is all home-made and warranted perfectly harmless.

1275 POUNDS was the exact weight, after dressing, of the great steat from Sanibel and now being served out at the Victoria Market. All Murray's Christmas steat was raised by Phillips, of Sanibel District, and is pronounced among the finest produced on the Island. Murray has a good assortment of the very best hams and bacon from Island fed Pork.

REAL HAVANA.—The best proof of the excellence of the Box of Havana cigars brought us by Keyser's is the rapidity with which they disappeared in smoke. We are informed that the donor has a good supply of the same sort left for holiday customers.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING.—A meeting to consider the best method of raising a revenue for the support of the Victoria Schools will be held at the school-house at noon to-day. We trust that parents and others interested will make it a point to attend and state their views.

OF ROSSIN.—On the corner of Fort and Blandford streets, has just received from the fresh supplies of supply raisins, plums, currants, fruit in brandy and other seasonable goods. Fresh eggs and butter daily from the Island.

ALL the ingredients for an English plum-pudding may be had at Bell & Co.'s, Fort street, together with preserved fruits, lemon, orange and vanilla creams and the freshest and best groceries in the city.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Capt. Clarke, arrived from Nanaimo last evening. She brought a few passengers and a freight, chiefly coal, but no news of importance.

SLINGSNOT.—A man was arrested last evening on a charge of assaulting, the proprietor of the Alhambra Saloon with a slingshot in the form of a large stone tied in one end of a rag, which he had used to throw at the proprietor.

HENRY HEWITT was discharged by the Police Magistrate—no evidence being adduced to connect him with the murder of James Smith two years ago.

The attention of the Corporation is called to a ragged piece of roofing tin, which lies directly in the line of travel at the corner of Bastion and Langley streets.

TRADES LICENSES.—A great many defaulters in Trades Licenses appeared yesterday before the Magistrate and paid up.

ROYAL HOSPITAL.—Poultry and other delicacies have been presented to the inmates of the Royal Hospital.

The issue sisters continue to improve.

HEROISM of a Girl only Eleven Years old.

On Friday of last week, a family named Crowley, living at Pugwash, N. S., was aroused from sleep, about 11 p. m., by the cracking sound of fire. Mr. Crowley rushed to the barn, where two of his sons slept to arouse them.

On finding he found it impossible to get up stairs, where five of the family were sleeping, or to his father's room, where an old man and little son were sleeping together. But at last the cries of Mrs. Crowley awakened the eldest daughter, who, on rushing to the window was told to throw herself down.

The noble child said, "No, my brother and sister must be saved." Rejoicing through the smoke and heat, she snatched up her sleeping brother, nine years old, and carried him to the window, from which he contrived to get down.

Again she returned—the flames having penetrated the room this time—and taking up her sister, 7 years old, she carried her also to the window, and here, says the Rev. Edwin Clay, M. D., the dear girl had more than she could do, for her sister, in her fright, refused to be thrown out, and with the flames coming up around her, she struggled with her until she put her out of the window, and the child fell to the ground.

After hanging a moment or two upon the sill, she dropped down herself a distance of nearly 16 feet. When she rose from the ground she said, "I am done mother, but I have saved my sister and brother from being burnt."

With much difficulty and personal risk, Mr. Crowley was all this time endeavoring to save his aged father and son. The night was extremely cold and none of them had saved a particle of clothing. The mother with her infant children then walked a distance of half a mile, and I was sent for.

In about three hours after the fire I was attending to the suffering children. I saw there was no hope of saving the dear girl, for from her forehead to the bottom of her feet she was one mass of burnt flesh. This with the fearful shock of jumping so far, and walking such a distance in the cold, caused her to sink rapidly and at six in the morning she died, aged 11 years and 8 months, a martyr to the love of her brother and sister.

I never before saw so much courage and firmness in one so young and while dressing her bruised and burnt limbs she uttered no complaint. Her sister died in the evening, and the uncle suffered fearfully from the effects of jumping out of the window. The rest I hope will recover.—Nova Scotia Paper.

AUBER recently attended the funeral of a friend in Paris and on his way back after the church ceremonies were over when some one asked, "Do you not accompany us to the cemetery?" "No," was the reply, "I go no farther than this for other people's funerals. It will be fine enough for the churchyard on my own account."

Why should people marry? Because ladies want much and gentlemen want comforters.

Mitchell & Johnston, OFFER FOR SALE, Ex-Quolette from London.

WIND-UP GLASS, PUTTY OF SUPERIOR QUALITY, SACKS, PRESERVE JARS, FLOWER POTS—London Make, The Gardener's Friend, FOWLER'S INSECTICIDE, REGISTERED SELF-ACTING HAND DRILL, COCKETS, LOCKS, AND BUILDINGS, BLANKETS!

TO ARRIVE PER PRINCE OF WALES, 2500 PAIRS, 2 1/2 Point Blankets, Assorted Colors, POP SALE BY HENRY NATHAN, JR. & CO., 221 N. 1st St., Victoria.

BLANKETS, HATS, COATS, DEBES, BRITISH COLONIST Job Printing Office.

## ENGLISH BAZAAR!

FORT REBT, VICTORIA

MRS. JOHNSTON, Has just received from Europe a large assortment of ELEGANT GOODS.

CONSISTING OF, USEFUL AND FANCY ARTICLES, of the most fashionable and elegant designs.

ELECTRO-PLATED WARE, of the most elegant and useful designs.

CUTLERY of a Superior Description, of the most elegant and useful designs.

MISCELLANEOUS, of the most elegant and useful designs.

CONFECTIONERY, of the most elegant and useful designs.

MORE THAN 200,000 Persons, have testified to the Wonderful Effects of Dr. Joseph Walker's CALIFORNIA.

VINEGAR BITTERS, of the most elegant and useful designs.

DRUGGISTS, of the most elegant and useful designs.

R. H. McDONALD &amp; CO., of the most elegant and useful designs.

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