

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

And Victoria Chronicle.

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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.
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AGENTS.
ALEXANDER & CO., NANCY
J. H. BROWN, VANCOUVER
S. G. H. BROWN, VANCOUVER
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A Double Shuffle.

A writer in the *Telegraph* of yesterday publishes two and a half columns of words to prove to his own satisfaction—not to that of his readers, who are always a secondary consideration—that the position the three Radical members have assumed is in strict keeping with the rules of political morality and the principles of the Constitution. To make his case stronger than the arguments he advances can do, our cotemporary, assuming with a great flourish of trumpets, that no one in the Colony, save himself, was aware of the existence of certain laws, and quotes the following:

"No colonial law passed with the concurrence of or assented to by the Governor of any Colony, or to be hereafter so passed or assented to, shall be or be deemed to have been void or inoperative by reason only of any instructions with reference to such law or the subject thereof which may have been given to such Governor by or on behalf of Her Majesty, by any instrument or instruments which the Letters Patent or instrument authorizing such Governor to concur in passing or to assent to laws for the peace, order, and good government of such Colony, even though such instructions may be referred to in such Letters Patent or last-mentioned instrument.

Every Colonial Legislature shall have, and be deemed at all times to have had, full power within its jurisdiction to establish Courts of Judicature, and to abolish and reconstitute the same, and alter the constitution thereof, and to make provision for the administration of justice therein; and every representative Legislature shall, in respect to the Colony under its jurisdiction, have, and be deemed at all times to have had, full power to make laws respecting the construction, powers, and procedure of such Legislatures; provided that such laws shall have been passed in such manner and form as may from time to time be required by any Act of Parliament, Letters Patent, Order in Council, or Colonial Law for the time being in force in the said Colony."

This extract, the writer assures his readers with becoming gravity, settles the question of the right of the Assembly to "amend our Constitution" (meaning the Constitution of the Colony) in any way it may see fit, and upsets all Letters Patent or Instructions that the Governor may now hold or that he may have held from the Queen. But let our readers peruse the extract carefully and mark the Jesuitical reasoning by which our cotemporary seeks to mislead them. In the first paragraph it is distinctly set forth that "No Colonial law," etc., "shall be or be deemed to be inoperative by reason of any instructions with reference to such law or the subject thereof, which have been given to such Governor by or on behalf of Her Majesty, by any instruments OTHER than the Letters Patent or Instrument," etc. This clearly proves, then, that the Letters Patent are the ONLY authority for the guidance of the Governor, and that all OTHER documents or instructions may be set aside of Colonial Law. It does not mean, as our cotemporary urges, that the Letters are inoperative as soon as the Colonial Legislature passes an Act to do away with them; but that they are the only authority for the guidance

of the Governor. For, should there be any of the extraordinary laws that every representative Legislature shall, in respect to the Colony, under its jurisdiction, have and be deemed at all times to have had, full power to make laws respecting the Constitution, powers, and procedure of such Legislature. Not the Constitution of the Colony, but the Letters Patent authorizing the construction of the Legislature. That is to say: the Assembly may pass rules for its own regulation and guidance; may constitute new Electoral districts, abolish the property qualification of the members, etc., etc., but it cannot override the functions of the Executive, nor a Proclamation of the Queen, nor an Act of the Imperial Parliament. So much for the extract our cotemporary has quoted. Its meaning is too clear to require any further attention; but it is most unfortunate for our cotemporary that he was so "befogged" or "obtuse" that he could not see that the weapon he used for the destruction of others could be so easily turned to advantage against himself. With regard to the morality of the position assumed by the movers, there can be but one opinion: Their position amounts to nothing more nor less than intimidation. The footpad clutches his victim by the throat and, presenting a pistol at his head, cries, "Your money or your life!" The three Radical members assist in the passage of a series of resolutions intended to accomplish the removal of the Governor; and then they shout, "Give us office, or die officially!" Wherein lies the moral difference between the footpads? There is none.

will come before the Assembly to-day. But it matters little now whether it be passed with the assistance of the Governor's friends in the House, or not. It matters not whether the order delaying the transmission of the non-confidence resolutions be made perpetual, or whether they be sent forward to-day. It is on record that three of the members of the Assembly, who were most determined in their passage, have attempted to use them as a means to secure elevation to office, and the Governor may now snap his fingers at all their efforts to unseat him. This state of things is deeply to be deplored by every lover of his country; but it is precisely what than the moderate men prophesied from the first. In a standard old English work now before us we find the following capital hit at the political "patriots" of that day. How exactly it fits the three "patriots" who are so anxious to serve Vancouver Island, will be seen by perusal:

"In former times patriots prided themselves on two things: their own poverty, and the riches of the state. But poor as these men were, there were kings not rich enough to purchase them, nor powerful enough to intimidate them. In modern times it would be easier to find a patriot rich enough to buy a king, than a king not rich enough to buy a patriot. Valerius Maximus informs us that *Ælius Pæus* tore to pieces with his own teeth a woodpecker, because the augur, being consulted, had replied that if the bird lived the house of *Ælius* would flourish, but that if it died, the prosperity of the state would prevail. Modern patriots have discovered that a roasted woodcock is better than a raw woodpecker."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Monday, July 30th.

CUTTING AND WOUNDING.

—Jack, a Fort Rupert Indian, arrested by officer Tenniel was charged on Saturday in the Police Court with cutting and wounding another Indian. The latter appeared in Court with a frightfully battered and mutilated physiognomy, and said that Jack had stabbed him in the mouth and cut him under the eye. Several Indians were examined, also a colored witness and the officer, and the Magistrate being satisfied, notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, that Jack was guilty, sentenced him to pay a fine of \$25 or suffer two months' imprisonment in the chain gang volunteers.

A field of hay was burned at Hillside Farm, on Saturday afternoon.

LAUNCH OF A STEAMER.

There is nothing particularly novel, but there is something peculiarly attractive in a launch. The announcement that Capt. Stamp's fine side-wheel steamer, constructed by Mr. Trahey at his yard in Victoria west, was to be committed to her proper element on Saturday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, brought a large concourse of citizens to the spot, the fair sex being all represented. The scene on the shores as the steamer was engaged in removing the smooth surface of the water was ruffled by a flotilla of small boats, crammed to their utmost capacity with eagerly expectant spectators. Shortly after four o'clock, several ladies and a number of gentlemen, ascended the steamer for the purpose of accompanying her in her descent to the water, and had hardly taken their stand on deck, when the shipwrights below discovered that the shores were giving way, and the last "dogs" had therefore to be quickly knocked away so as to give the restless craft a chance to make her first marine voyage. The shout "she's off!" soon resounded from all sides and away glided the steamer, down the ways amid the loud plaudits and applause, re-echoed by that on board. So unexpected was her departure from terra firma, that the christening ceremony, which was performed by Mrs. Shepherd, wife of J. G. Shepherd, Esq., had to be hurried through and there was barely time to observe the old custom of breaking a bottle of wine over the ship's bows. A jolly skipper, who was mounting the ladder leaning against the ship's side at the time she moved away, was astonished to find himself suddenly launched to Mother earth. After the launch, the handsome craft with her colors proudly fluttering in the breeze, was warped over to the Hudson Bay Company's wharf where she will receive her machinery, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen repaired by invitation of Capt. Stamp and Mr. Trahey, to the upper deck of a large building shed in Mr. Trahey's yard, where champagne and refreshments on a liberal scale were in readiness.

The steamer will be placed at the disposal of the Hon. J. G. Shepherd and responded to with all the honors. Mr. R. Barnaby proposed Capt. Stamp's health, which was enthusiastically received and happily acknowledged with, "he's a jolly good fellow." Mr. J. J. Southgate proposed the health of the builder of the "Isabel," Mr. J. W. Trahey, and passed a high compliment on the construction of the vessel. The toast was also warmly received. The health of the ladies was proposed by Mr. Southgate and responded to by Messrs C. B. Young and G. C. Wigham. Mr. Young proposed the health of the workmen, which was responded to by one of themselves, and Mr. Trahey made a capital speech awarding the credit due, to all of his workmen, the shipwrights, carpenters, joiners, blacksmiths, caulkers and painters, for their excellent workmanship. His remarks afforded the liveliest satisfaction to his employees. The "Isabel," so named after a daughter of the owner, is a remarkably handsome model and a most serviceable craft for any purpose, being in fact, almost too good to be engaged as a tug at the Bugarid Inlet mill for which she was designed. She is constructed entirely in accordance with Lloyd's instructions, and is perhaps the most substantially built boat ever launched on the Pacific coast. Her frame is of natural crooks of Douglas pine, entirely free from sap. She is copper fastened throughout, and has iron hanging knees and iron diagonal hooks. Her keel is from one tree, without a scarf, and was cut at Burrard Inlet. She has also five keelsons, three of which contain solid pieces of lumber 90 feet long. Her outside planking runs in lengths of from 70 to 80 feet free from blemish, also from the Inlet, and is acknowledged to be the finest timber ever put into a vessel on this coast. The following are her dimensions: Length overall, 146 feet; extreme breadth, 24 feet; depth of hold, 9 feet 2 inches; estimated tonnage, 275 register. Her engines, which are 80 horse power, are of English manufacture, having been imported recently by the Eastern Chief.

The Canyon Creek Diggings.

[From the Columbian.]

We are indebted to the politeness of the Hon. H. M. Ball, Acting Colonial Secretary, for the following report from W. R. Spalding, Esq., with the accompanying letter from Mr. Charles Waldron, who has just returned from a prospecting tour on Canyon Creek in the Cariboo country. According to Mr. Waldron's statement, which is no doubt thoroughly reliable, the newly discovered diggings on Canyon Creek promise to be second to none yet discovered in that highly auriferous region of country. We have much pleasure in laying these documents in extenso before our readers:

Mr. Spalding to the Acting Colonial Secretary:

QUEENSLAND, July 18th, 1866.

SIR—I have the honor to report for the information of His Honor the Officer Administering the Government that Mr. Charles Waldron, of Soda Creek, who left here on the 21st ult., with a party of six men, for the purpose of further prospecting the late gold discoveries in the neighborhood of Canyon Creek, has returned to this place to-day, and that his report to me as to the richness and extent of the country over which he has prospected, is most satisfactory, and has, I think, placed it beyond all doubt, that these new diggings will, when worked, prove of equal value to any that have hitherto been discovered in this Colony.

I enclose for His Honor's consideration Mr. Waldron's letter to me on the subject, and would suggest that it should be made public, as it may have a most beneficial effect in inducing miners to make their way to the locality named as speedily as possible.

It is the intention of Mr. G. B. Wright, who is at present here, that the steamer Enterprise shall ply between the mouth of Cottonwood River and freight will warrant it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. SPALDING.

Mr. Waldron to Mr. Spalding, J. P.

QUEENSLAND, July 17th, 1866.

SIR—I beg to make you the following report of the proceedings of our party of five men.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

A telegram says that the Great Eastern might reach Heart's Content, Newfoundland, on Friday last; it so the next despatches from the East ought surely to bring word of her arrival. In the meantime let every one prepare his message of congratulation to the old folks at home, the charge for transmission from America to England will be only \$5 per word.

FIXED FRUIT.

This is certainly a great country for fruit. Mr. Wilson Brown yesterday showed us some magnificent specimens of cherries, gooseberries, and black currants raised in his own garden; the "enormous gooseberries" are of Welsh extraction; they may be seen in the shop window of Mr. A. W. Piper on Government street.

ROCK CREEK.

We learn from a passenger by the Alexandra on Saturday, who has visited the above creek, that only about ten white men are mining there, the rest being Chinamen. Nothing but Chinamen's wages are made in that section.

ROUND THE CORNER.

HERBERT'S SALOON, Langley Street, will be opened this (Saturday) evening, July 28th, at 8 o'clock, by Jacob Heikimer, who will be happy to see all his friends.

ON FIRE.

The grass and oak groves at Beacon Hill were on fire yesterday and several acres were burned over. The fire was set by mischievous boys.

SUDDEN DEATH.

A Mrs. Harmon died suddenly at James Bay bridge, on Friday night last, of heart disease, and was buried yesterday.

FOR PORTLAND, OREGON.

The steamer Fidelity, Capt. Erskine, sailed for Portland on Saturday, with 30 passengers and a fair freight.

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QUEENSLAND, July 17th, 1866.

SIR—I beg to make you the following report of the proceedings of our party of five men.

weight that place on the 21st of June and reached Canyon Creek on the 28th inst. Of course we found it necessary to the first place to saw lumber for sluices, and to construct a ditch to bring water on our claim. Owing to the scarcity of all kinds of tools the latter work occupied us ten days, although only one-fourth of a mile in length. The original ditch made by Mr. Hixon's party had, in his absence, become completely filled. Owing to the presence of snow and ice on the ground we found it almost impossible to keep our new ditch in order, and having left the water in the ditch, it ran in a break, which cost us \$10 to \$12 in the work.

We therefore commenced work in that spot and in a space of ground about 10 feet by 25 feet, in less than a day's work we washed out \$76.

The other work which we had done had yielded well, and our whole results amounted to \$270.

Estimating the actual number of days work to realize that, we found our pay had amounted to \$17 per day per man. Under favorable circumstances and with hydraulic pipe, with our present prospects, I think the ground will pay fifty dollars a day to the man. When I left, the "face" of our claim was about 6 feet high, and paid from the surface down.

The "Blue Lead Co." of seven men, under the management of Mr. Shepherd, joining us on the upper side, have not yet commenced work. Their dirt prospects from three to five bits to the pan. They are bringing in their dirt twenty feet higher than ours, and probably have it completed in about 8 days.

The Go-ahead Co. are about half a mile above the Blue Lead Co., and have struck a prospect of four bits to the pan on a slate bed rock. Up to this company the whole of the bed rock consists of a rather soft sandstone, and it is my opinion that it is not solid, but that a second layer of gravel will be found beneath it.

These are all the companies at present located.

Specimens of gold-bearing quartz are to be met with on all sides. We have a few specimens with us in which the gold is visible in every part. Several of the veins are apparently well defined, and will, in my opinion, eventually form the most prominent and valuable leads of gold in the country.

The next four weeks will enable all the companies now on the creek to thoroughly test their ground.

Hixon's Creek is a tributary of Canyon Creek, and resembles Hixley's; it is sometimes very high, and is subject to sudden changes, and I should estimate its volume of water at one thousand gallons. The general course of the stream is nearly parallel with the Fraser. It has its source in the Blue Ridge of the Cariboo mountains, is about 26 miles in length, and has a very great fall. It will, if gold bearing throughout, afford employment for several thousand men.

The mouth of the Cottonwood River is the terminus of steam navigation from Soda Creek.

In conclusion I can only say that I have the utmost confidence in the prospects of the creek. The developments of the present season, I hope, prove that I am not too sanguine.

I have &c.
(Signed) CHAS. WALDRON.

The Ministerial Council.

EDITORS COLONIST & CHRONICLE.—Whatever other characteristics attach to the House of Assembly, consistency and fixedness of purpose are certainly not prominent. After lengthened deliberation, a reply to a gubernatorial message was adopted by a full House the other day, and ordered to be forwarded, with sundry resolutions, through His Excellency to Her Majesty. To-day, before the clerks could perform their task, the Rules were suspended, and in a thin House, five members direct that the order be not carried out until some yet undefined alteration in the constitution of the Colony shall be passed by the House and submitted for His Excellency's assent. Should the assent be withheld, then the commendatory documents are to be sent! It is surprising that the fact escaped the attention of the leading statesman that the test measure is an utterly impracticable one. An Executive Council now exists by authority of the Imperial Parliament, and whether wisely constituted or not, cannot be ignored or set aside by any authority in the Colony. Such a committee as is proposed could not supplant the Executive Council, and the latter body could not, without an entire abandonment of self-respect, permit such an invasion of its rights to take place without impeaching the Governor for maladministration and disregard of the Royal Instructions were he to venture upon the course suggested. It is to be hoped that a full House will rebuke the temerity of the aspiring five, and show that it is not ignorant of constitutional law.

July 27, 1866.

(Signed) W. R. SPALDING.

DIFFERENCE AS LIFE FROM DEATH.

This is the distinction between *Bristol's Sarsaparilla* and all Mercurial Medicines. The latter poisons the blood, the former purifies and invigorates it. When the seeds of death have been introduced into the veins by the use of mercurial nostrums nothing will arrest the march of the victim to the grave save this poison-convulsing antidote. So also when the virus of natural disease, working through the venous system, is developed in scrofulous ulcers, tumors, carbuncles, white swellings, felon, eruptions, or any other fearful external malady, this great remedy acts chemically upon the depraved blood and other animal fluids, changing them as if by a miracle, to pure and nourishing streams, bearing health and vigor into the organs through which they flow. For sale by all Druggists.