

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, July 11, 1865.

THE FOURTH OF JULY.

Who that has experienced the horrors of a shipwreck in mid-ocean or on a desolate coast will ever forget the wild transport which he felt at the first sight of deliverance? Who that has borne the brunt of the tempest, passed through the terrible ordeal of want, and faced with unprotected head the maddening glare of the tropical sun, will ever lose sight of those feelings of joy and thankfulness that burst forth on the first appearance of the dim outlines of the distant land? There are minutes when we seem to live through an entire existence—there are epochs in our individual life which seem, like the maelstrom, to swallow up everything within their terrible radii. The last four years of storm and disaster in the United States has become an age in its history—the epoch of the war has swallowed up the record of half a century. Like the first Christian year it will become a new starting point, and men who worship liberty will see in it the dawn of a regenerated world. Women will date the birth of their children from the great event, and future historians will speak of subsequent occurrences as such a length of time after the "great American war." When the citizens of the United States assemble to-day to commemorate the anniversary of the Independence of their nation, they will, in spite of themselves, and for the first time in their lives, be compelled to make that recollection subordinate to other events. "Seventy-six" will stand in the firmament of their imagination, calm and beautiful as the evening star, but "eighteen hundred and sixty-five" will swell out in proportion and in glare like the mid-day orb itself. The august features of Washington will beam on the assembled multitude from the misty realms of a remote past, but the figure of Lincoln, not warm and genial as in life, but with the death-pallor of the slain, will, on this Fourth of July at least, occupy the foreground of the present. It is not that Washington and his compatriots are any less appreciated than in former years; it is not that the magnitude of Lincoln's rule overshadows that of the illustrious "father of his country;" for every year will only make the name of the first great President and the remarkable incidents connected with his life objects of greater veneration to the masses of mankind; but it is that while the nation has just been delivered from the greatest of its dangers, the foremost figure in that deliverance lies in a new-made grave. The shadow of the great departed rests like a dark cloud on the commemorative rejoicing. It is well, however, that it should be so; it is one of the laws of our being to value that most which is most readily purchased; and no liberty has ever been retained that was not baptized at some time or other in human blood. The sacrifice has always been demanded—the price has invariably been paid. When the citizens of America meet this day they will no doubt ponder this well, and while rejoicing over the greatest triumph their country has yet achieved—while breathing forth thankfulness and gratitude to the Giver of all good for their deliverance from an overwhelming danger, will not forget the lesson of humility that is taught.

Standing on this Fourth of July morning, and looking down through the vista of years on that other Fourth of July morning on which were assembled the best and the bravest of Britain's colonists, to declare themselves independent of the mother country, we are struck with the inexorable degrees of fate. We see men with all their patriotism and their bravery fighting for an independence that they themselves were unwilling to give to fellow-countrymen on the same soil, and this little part of the unfinished problem of human liberty was left as a harmless legacy to the white man's descendants. How terribly the oversight on the crime has been expiated the last four years will show. What a price the American people have been called to pay for human slavery. The debt has been liquidated, however, and the United States stands to-day, for the first time during the last century and a half, free from the abomination. It is this which makes the present Fourth of July more significant than its predecessors—more honest and more glorious. When the Declaration of Independence shall be read to-day, whatever American citizens congregate, its noble assertions about the inalienable rights of man to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, will be more beloved. No more will the orator have to blash for the glowing falsehood—no more will he think of the mangled wretch in the "Dismal Swamp;" the lacerated negro on the plantation, the auction mart, for human flesh, and the blood-bought bay on the track of the flying slave. That terrible picture of American disgrace is blotted out by the blood of her best sons, and the last remnant of wrong is swept from the land. Washington wrings from a reluctant monarch the freedom of a people, but Lincoln fought for the whole human race.

We have said the last four years is an age in American history. When the Fourth of

July came up for celebration in 1861, no person dreamed that '65 should have seen the slave power hopelessly and for ever crushed. The great desire, the all-pervading anxiety then was reunion. If more terrible trials were in store for the American people at that time, more glorious fruits were, on the other hand, hanging in the distance. In grasping these luscious and health-giving productions, let not the thorns in the pathway be estimated too dearly; let it not be supposed the result is incommensurate with the labor. Human liberty is worth any sacrifice; for where it exists not life is a burden that does not pay to carry. We congratulate, therefore, the American citizens on this important change in their great national anniversary, and we hope that as time rolls round the Fourth of July of 1865 will become as memorable as its prototype of '76.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Later from Cariboo.

The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday morning, bringing Baranof's Express, with dates to the 24th June. The Sentinel of that date, which by the way appears to be progressing amazingly well, and comes to us on each occasion with a large supplement, contains no mining intelligence of great importance. The news from Canningham Creek is satisfactory. The Kentucky Co. are reported to have made \$1400 in one week, and on the 22d they washed out 7 ounces in the pan. Little change was noticeable on Williams Creek. Lowhee Creek was looking up, and operations on the other creeks were being pushed forward with commendable vigor. In the market report there is little to notice. Prices continued to decline as fresh arrivals took place. Flour—wholesale, \$20 per 100 lbs.; retail, 22 cents per lb.

News from Kootenay.

[From the Columbian.] Extract from Report of the Gold Commissioner at Kootenay, dated 6th June, 1865.

Sir, "All the creek claims are still laid over in consequence of the high stage of the water, and the bench claims, with few exceptions, cannot be worked until the Victoria (Dore, Pitblaff & Co.)'s ditch is completed, there being no water at present available. Under these circumstances there is but little of interest to communicate as the season can hardly be said to have opened."

There are now on the creek about fifteen hundred men, five hundred of whom are profitably employed.

Among the principal companies at present working are

The Bannister & Co., who employ eighteen men, sixteen of whom are ground sluicing, and only two clearing up bad rock, averaging up to last Saturday 12 oz. per day.

The LLOYD Co., who are working with eight men, pays daily from 16 to 20 oz.

The DORE Co., with twenty-five men, produced last week in four days 165 oz.

The KERNAN Co., adjoining the above, averaged from 3 to 5 oz. per day to the hand.

The FISHER Co. employ 31 men, and had five sluices at work. They took out last week 324 oz.

Above these there are from fifteen to twenty companies paying from \$10 to \$20 to the hand.

Some little excitement has been caused by a rumor that fresh discoveries have been made on Elk River, which is situated some 50 miles southeast of this camp, but nothing reliable has as yet transpired. A few parties are now flitting out to prospect in that locality.

Notwithstanding the very unfavorable circumstances under which the season is opening, those best acquainted with the mines, and perhaps the most reliable, are sanguine of success, and I think there is every reason for supposing that their hopes will be realized.

Supplies of all kinds are arriving daily from Walla Walla, a large proportion of which are light and dry goods. The average rate of freight is from 25 to 40 cents per pound.

I have, &c. (Signed) P. O'REILLY, Gold Commissioner.

LATER IMPORTANT FROM BIG BEND, KOOTENAY, ROCK CREEK, &c., &c., &c.

A gentleman who has just reached town, having left Fort Colville on June 12th, has supplied us with the following interesting and important information:

BIG BEND DIGGINGS. About 200 men had descended the Columbia for the Big Bend Diggings. The river now presents much the appearance that Fraser River did in 1858. Numbers of canoes and small boats are continually ascending. Captain White's steamer will be ready to navigate the river up to the Big Bend by September next in time for the fall trade. Our informant saw miners who visited these diggings in the spring and returned for supplies. They reported having found general good prospects. On the bars they could get from four to six bits and on the creeks from 25 cents to a dollar and a quarter to the pan.

The diggings were causing considerable excitement and it is anticipated that there will probably be from 2000 to 10,000 men there this summer. A large stampede will doubt take place from Boise and the neighborhood in this direction. A firm at Colville had sent up boats loaded with provisions.

Our informant thinks that British Colum-

bia will not be able to participate in the traffic with Big Bend or Kootenay mines until the Government constructs a proper road from Fort Hope to Fort Shepherd, and then he does not consider that we can export more than half the trade. The distance is about 200 miles and there are, no engineering difficulties in the way that he is aware of. Bacon at Big Bend, when it could be got, sold at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per lb. Beans, 50c. Flour from 75c to \$1. Tea about 35c per lb.; very scarce.

Our informant confirms the report of the discovery of the new creek referred to by Commissioner O'Reilly. He understood that several thousand miners were on their way to Kootenay. Provisions were very scarce and high. Ab Colville flour was retailing at from \$15 to \$25 per 100 lbs., according to quality. Sugar, 60c; tea, \$1.75 to \$2.50 per lb. Bacon, none, ruling at 62c to 65c per lb. Beans, 35c to 40c. The country by this time is no doubt well supplied with large quantities of goods, except on the way.

A company was being formed in Oregon to run stages from Prine, Rapids or White Bluff to the Little Dalles, 20 miles above Colville to connect with Capt. White's steamer, a distance of about 150 miles. A

About 50 or 60 men are at work here and appeared to be making fair wages. The water had been very high this spring and caused considerable delay in getting into the bed of the creek.

A few Chinamen were working and doing well. A party of three took out 7 ounces in a week.

It is estimated that from 1200 to 1500 Chinamen, chiefly from British Columbia, had found their way to Colville and were mining on the bars of the Columbia below Fort Shepherd for a distance of about 400 miles. They can make from \$1.50 to \$3 a day, though some have made as high as \$6 a day, and last season Chinamen were known to have made from \$2000 to \$3000.

THE BIG BEND DIGGINGS.

[From the Columbian.] The atmosphere is pregnant with rumors of rich discoveries in this interesting and promising section of country. Mr. William Ladner, who has just returned from the Kamloops, informs us that he saw Perry, the well-known explorer, who had come over to Kamloops for a supply of provisions. Mr. Perry informed Mr. Ladner that he and his party struck rich diggings in a creek emptying into the Columbia river at the Big Bend, and about where the road from Shuswap Lake will strike the river. They took out \$200 worth in a very short time, but not having a supply of provisions they were compelled to leave. They were about sixty men on the creek when he left to get provisions. He reports the mines there as quite equal to Cariboo. Mr. Ladner also saw Mr. Campbell, the well-known cattle dealer, who has just returned from the Okanagan country, and who told him of rich strikes on the Big Bend, towards which there was a great rush.

Mr. McLardy, of Yale, received a letter from Mr. W. Robertson, dated Fort Colville, June 10th. Mr. Robertson says, "I got here four days ago and am building a boat to go up the Columbia."

There were eighteen boats went up the Columbia this spring, and the day before we got here a man came down with a number of letters from those who are at work prospecting, and all those letters concur in saying that something has been struck, but how good it is I do not know yet. Some of the party went up a creek that empties into the Columbia and found a good prospect on the sloping bedrock, going into the creek, and when the party who came down left no bottom had been reached where they had sunk shafts on the flats, the water being too high to get down in the creek.

Another party came down yesterday who are going back. They bring further information that there are some miners working on a bar above this creek, and doing pretty well. I should not be surprised to find that good diggings have been found on the Columbia this summer.

The greater part of the boats that left here went high up towards the Big Bend, but from them we have heard nothing. It was the tail end of the prospectors who struck the creek above alluded to. Two large boats loaded with merchandise started up this afternoon. The diggings are 250 miles above Colville.

There has been no news received as yet from the Government exploring party commanded by Mr. Orr, but everywhere there appears to be the greatest confidence felt as to the result of the explorations and prospecting now going on.

Mr. Ladner informs us that the Hudson Bay Company are busily engaged in erecting a station (storehouse) &c., at the foot of Lake Kamloops, which indicates that the cautious and shrewd directors have no longer any misgivings as to the future of the country alluded to.

FROM CHINA AND JAPAN.

[From the Columbian.] Yokohama (Japan), advices to May 27th, report the Tycoon was preparing for an immediate invasion of Prince Negato's country, and the latter, with Satsuma and many other powerful Daimios, was preparing to resist him. The Tycoon had received 10,000 of the troops destined for service, the bulk of whom were armed as of old, with spears and swords. Burgoyne and other Americans and Europeans are with the Tycoon.

Commercial affairs at Hong Kong and Shanghai are represented as being dull.

Nor GUILTY—Felder, the man charged with stabbing a man named Bible at Williams Creek, was recently tried before Judge Begbie and acquitted. Several strictures were passed by the judge on the finding of the jury. The Sentinel says it was in accordance with the evidence and blames the Crown prosecutor.

ARRIVED—The Rev. A. C. Garrett has arrived at Williams Creek.

THE INTERCOLONIAL RIFLE CONTEST.

8th July, Victoria, July 6th, 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir, While we take in good part the lesson received from New Westminster, which a la Americana would be called a "whipping," it is as well that one of the first contests with the late rifle contest should be made sufficiently public, and this simply on the grounds of the known interest in the matter taken by our friends out of the corps, and of the fact that rifles are their honor is in our hands. I allude to the difference in the weapons employed; the Victorians using the long Enfield rifle, and the New West- minsterians the Lancaster carbine, according to the usual practice of the Royal Engineers, lately camped there. Without thrusting forward any personal opinion on this question I will merely quote from a little work: "The Rifle and how to use it," by Haas Bush, 1849, first lieutenant of the Victoria Rifles, entitled the two first volunteer corps ever enrolled in the United Kingdom: "The following carefully prepared return exhibits the practice at Malta in 1856 of the 1st and 17th companies Royal Engineers, with the Lancaster carbine, bore 0.577, as contrasted with the practice at the School of Musketry, Hythe, with the Enfield Rifle, 1854 to 1857. [Here follow tabular statements.]

From these tables it will be seen that during these years practice at Hythe, the highest percentage of first class shots with the Enfield rifle was 63, while at Malta, with the Lancaster carbine, the per centage amounted to 78.1. It may be seen that on the 4th August, 1858, some further experiments were conducted in Cheatham Marshes near St. Mary's, Ormskirk, expressly for testing the comparative range and accuracy of the Lancaster and the Enfield rifles, the "Lancaster" of the same construction as that used by the Royal and the E. I. Company's Engineers and the ordinary Enfield rifle in use by the troops of the line and at the School of Musketry, Hythe. The persons selected were several non-commissioned officers belonging to the Royal Engineers and an equal number of non-commissioned officers chosen from the depots of the E. I. Company's regiments attached to the 2d Battalion, each of whom had gone through a regular course of instruction in the rifle. 20 rounds of ball cartridge were supplied to each. The practice commenced at 350 yards and was gradually increased to 600 yards. Though the skill of the parties was as nearly matched as possible, at the conclusion of the trial it was found that the "Lancaster" had made 20 points, and the Enfield only 13.88. One man on each side having made 21 points.

On a subsequent trial of 20 rounds between different contestants still at 350 to 600 yards, the "Lancaster" made 15.60-100 points and the Enfield but 8, one of the former making the astonishing number of 23 points.

Comment is unnecessary, while far from wishing to utter plain complaints in justification of the old saying "A bad workman complains of his tools;" I wish to give a little more publicity to such facts as these, and to suggest that 15 per cent. on the late 209 points would have converted our opponents plus 17 to minus 13, even with our late bad shooting.

Not one of the TEN VICTORIANS.

FROM WHIDBY ISLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir, Perhaps it may be of some interest to your readers to know something concerning the progress of the people of this island. I therefore write you a few lines upon the subject. It is well known by those who have objected to visit the island but a few years ago, that it was comparatively nothing but a wilderness; its principal lords being the red men of the forest. But this class of inhabitants has fast degenerated in population, and its place has been supplied by the enterprising Yankee, or as the Indians call him, "the Boston man." So where once stood the wigwam of the Indian, now stand the dwelling house and barn of the white man. The hunting ground of the savage is now studded with the emblems of progress, viz., fine crops of potatoes, barley, oats, hay, vegetables, &c. Each settler seems bent on trying to outstrip his neighbor in rendering himself independent by means of his own industry, and with this class of energetic, enterprising, and ambitious citizens, our little community is fast becoming one of progress and wealth. I have been pleased to notice within the last few years, the improvement that has been made in the breeds of stock, so well adapted to the climate and pasturage of this country. Many are disposing of their inferior qualities of scrub stock, and replacing them with large and better blooded animals. There have been some good horses imported from Oregon to this island that will rank with the second class horses in any civilized country. Cows and hogs are greatly improved in size and quality. Many are turning their attention to the raising of sheep, which bids fair to be a profitable business. There are upon the island four stores with a prospect of more. I have mentioned some of the many bright prospects attending the enterprising inhabitants of this little community, as is always the case in all countries and communities, there are some whose sole object seems to consist in being a pest and terror to society, but as a whole the inhabitants of this island may be regarded as an enterprising and prosperous people. Owing to the recent and frequent showers of rain, which kind Providence has favored this region, crops of all kinds at this season of the year are equal to any that we have ever had in this country.

Yours respectfully, K.

SPEAKER COLMAN IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the last House of Representatives, and a member of the new Congress, Lieutenant Governor Cross of Illinois, Mr. T. Richardson, of the New York Tribune, and Mr. Bowles, of the Springfield Republican, arrived in this city last night by the way of the Plains. The party on their arrival in the city were received by Mayor Coon and a Committee of the Board of Supervisors, and D. G. McRuer, A. A. Sargent, and other distinguished citizens, and escorted to the Occidental Hotel, where they are now staying.

CITY COUNCIL.

MONDAY, JULY 3.

Council met at 7:30 p.m. Present: His Worship the Mayor and Councillors Fell, Smith, Jeffery, Thorne and Carey.

THE MAYOR desired that Messrs. Thorne and Carey, the newly elected Councillors, should be supplied with the Rules of Order, so that they might know how to conduct the business of the Council.

Mr. Thorne said he wished to give notice of motion on the subject of the Church Reserve. The Mayor said the Councillor might post a copy of his notice of motion on the door of the Council Chamber twenty-four hours before the next meeting of the Council. That was what the law required.

Mr. Thorne said he only wished it to be understood that the matter had not dropped.

CLEANING THE STREETS.

Mr. Thorne gave notice that he would move that the Mayor appoint a committee of two to wait upon His Excellency the Governor and ask him to allow the chain-gang to clean the streets at once, and also that an advertisement be put in the morning's Colonist stating that all property holders in the city are notified that their sidewalks must be placed in good repair within six days from the date of this resolution, and unless that is done that the parties will be summoned under the provisions of the City Ordinances and by-laws.

The Mayor expressed a hope that the Councillors would support the resolution, and thanked the Councillor for bringing it forward.

Mr. Carey had much pleasure in seconding the resolution as the matter required immediate attention. The town was in a shocking state, and the sidewalks also much needed looking after.

Mr. Jeffery asked whether the Mayor had the power to enforce payment if parties refused to attend to the notice.

The Mayor said he had the power and meant to enforce it. The law officers of the Crown had held that no better laws could exist than the By-Laws and Ordinances passed by the Council with the exception of that in respect to taxing rates.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously, and the Mayor appointed the mover and seconder as a committee.

Mr. Thorne asked to be excused, he should not be able to do anything with the gentleman over there (Laughter).

The Mayor said it was too late for discussion on that subject as he had already named the committee.

All the suggestion of Mr. Fell the committee were empowered to ask His Excellency the Governor to define what powers the Corporation possesses under the Act of Incorporation. Mr. Fell's name was then added to the committee.

Mr. Jeffery said he had thought it his duty to bring forward a resolution that the Council give up the City Chamber and offices, as when little business was done a trader was not justified in keeping up a large front shop but seeing that the Council gave evidence of going more earnestly to work and transacting a larger business he should not at present bring the resolution forward.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MONDAY, JULY 3, 1865.

Council met at 3:15 p.m. Present: The Hon. Chief Justice (President), Treasurer, Surveyor General, and H. Rhodes. The Hon. W. A. G. Young, Colonial Secretary, having taken the customary oath, took his seat in the Council.

A communication came up from the House below, enclosing Marriage License Fees Bill, and Bill to explain Chief Justices' Salary Act, both having passed the third reading in the Assembly.

The first named bill was read the first time and the Council adjourned till Thursday, when the Franchise Bill and Estate of Deceased Person's Bill will come up for consideration in committee.

The New Council.—The intrusion of new blood into the City Council has already begun to have a beneficial effect, as will be seen from the report of their proceedings in another column. A notice appears in our advertising columns this morning, calling on property owners to put their sidewalks in order at once, and a committee has been appointed to wait on His Excellency the Governor to procure the services of the chain-gang for cleaning the streets. Both of these things are absolutely necessary for the comfort and health of the community; the state of the sidewalks, what with projecting planks, holes, ledges, dresses broken planks, and unstable foundations, is most disagreeable and dangerous; and the pestiferous effluvia that greet the nostrils on almost every street gives urgent warning that unless proper sanitary precautions are speedily adopted, some virulent epidemic may be engendered. His Excellency could not do a more popular act than to grant the request of the Council without delay.

CRUELTY ON PANAMA STEAMERS.

Schneider and John Kohlfeld entered complaints before the United States Commissioner Hostie, on July 1st, against Captain Merry and first officer Salley, of the steamship America, charging them with infliction of cruel treatment on the steamer's last upward trip. They say that the officers put them in irons, with their hands tied behind their backs, and tied them up on the deck, keeping them in this painful position for hours. The complainants were bakers on board the ship, and the reason given by the officers for inflicting the punishment was that they made pies and cakes with ship stores, and sold them to the passengers for their own profit.

The Weekly

Tuesday,

THE LATE

The last act of the present session has proved worthy of the field of ruthless greed was terribly grand and Leslies, the King all consigned to another world. The chief the Impersonator of Deceased License Fees, the P Measures bills have stage; the play is to drop, and the actual representation in all the interesting "Blood" about the House. The "app on what it feeds" is no longer fit for time, supersedes the pondard of the tragedy weapon of more who perpetrates the "The Council knows prorogued to-day, the measures which stifled by the pro time has been at last few days to that remained yesterday only whole of the bill fell swoop, hope killed. We have o the people of Vanoo long-suffering lot; has managed to be on the strain. We that before another public treasury, the Government wi a summary termina bills the Lower Ho The question will terests do the mem sent, and if they the colony, as must ground do they opinion? They practically than the they are not the di the country, but p form public duties they are many m stated previously, this colony which the capacity to thw the people desire exceeding any enc tive of the town eedent. The Coun his mischievous pling is coming swiftly.

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The report of th was presented ye will be seen by the question as to the so far as the Com itely settled. The of certain papers i cutive, have not done; but they v very good premie instructions of ex las gave him t appoint a Coroner appointed and ge gentleman has n for over five and of the Treasurer, know by what an the high increase by the statement an increase came self and that the Committee, and w Department, wou Mather, Whate Executive, we in the common mitees' report, doubt about Dr. there are any sym tive; extraordinary If Dr. Dickson h ed there was a appointment if warrants before effectually decid not qualified for himself in any clearly marked in any circumstance has been wrong that, as there is to the applica ing on Coroners, as soon as possi ly and name was introduced ence to the co course of event