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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL 12. VICTORIA. VANCOUVER ISLAND WEDNESDAY. MARCH 8. 1871. NO 13.

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PUBLISHED DAILY BY
DAVID W. HIGGINS

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One Week	0 25

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PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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The Property Qualification.

In reply to our scathing expose of his political eccentricities' His Egregious Transparency' of the Democratic organ flies into unseemly rage and calls Canadian political institutions 'Grandaddyism,' calls Canadians 'North American Chinamen,' and does this journal the honor of alluding to it as 'Our Chinese contemporary.' Now, abuse is not argument, but it is the favorite weapon of a defeated party; and we are desirous of making due allowance for the pitiful plight in which the indiscretion and inordinate egotism of our contemporary have involved him. In most communities will be found, in a more or less complete state of preservation, the representative of extreme conservatism, old fossilized fogyism. In politics the representative of this class will ever be found in opposition to progressive reform, which he regards as dangerous innovation. He blindly clings to old forms and ancient institutions, simply because of their antiquity. In religion he is much the same, clinging with all the tenacity of a superstitious age to the musty fringes and the mouldy trappings amongst which true religion narrowly escaped immolation in the 'Middle Ages.' With him the question is not 'What is truth?' but rather 'What did my forefathers hold for truth?' If the science of Phrenology be correct, in this man's head the bump of 'veneration' will be found unduly developed, while that of 'self-esteem' will be found dwarfed. But there is another class, representing the opposite extreme. Here we have a man of restless disposition, ever in search of some new thing. In politics he is the revolutionist, the leveller, the wild experimenter—the fool who is ever ready to rush in where angels fear to tread. With him everything old is a fitting subject of ridicule, *because* it is old. His enquiry is not for the good old paths, that he may walk in them, but that he may avoid or subvert them. He has no respect for his father who begat him, or for his mother who brought him forth. Nay, he may sometimes be found even casting off the good old paternal name, in order that he may adopt some newfangled one. In religion he is a scoffer, a sceptic, a socialist—possibly a Mormon!! In his phrenological development the bumps of 'veneration' and 'caution' will be found extremely depressed, while that of 'self-esteem' will be found towering, up—occasionally so high as to necessitate the wearing of a 'stove-pipe hat.' There is a third and, let us hope, larger class who occupy the golden mean, who in politics, extracting what good they can from history and experience, are ever engaged in a cautious and constitutional progress, improving upon, instead of recklessly subverting and overturning existing institutions. It is this class that we hope to see predominating in the Councils of our country. It is this class to whose care may most safely be confided the interests of British Columbia in this the most critical period of her existence. The public writer who would at such a critical juncture seek to stir up sectional and class animosities cannot be a patriot. The public writer who would, under existing circumstances, wantonly insult four millions of the Queen's most loyal subjects by denominating them 'North American Chinamen' cannot be a gentleman.

Pre-Emption Land Instalments.

In another column will be found a notice requiring all persons in occupation of pre-empted land in certain districts on this Island to pay the amount of the instalments due thereon, on or before the 31st March, instant. We have good reason for believing that should this be rigidly enforced a very great hardship will result to the settlers in many instances. The 31st March is not a season of the year at which the settler is most likely to have spare cash at his disposal, even under more favorable circumstances than, we fear, exist at the present time. However desirable it may be to enter the Dominion with a clean sheet and upon the most advantageous financial basis that the revenues of the colony will permit, we do not think the Government would be at all justified in inflicting injury upon the settlers for the sake of producing a flattering balance-sheet. We are assured, and there is no reason to doubt it, that to enforce payment on the abovementioned day would be to seriously cripple the operations of many good settlers, while it would drive others to absolute desertion of their farms. However desirable it may be to pass into Confederate for deserted homesteads. The fact of the matter is that every *bona fide* settler in the colony was justly entitled to receive a free homestead; and it would, indeed, be harsh treatment to sacrifice and utterly ruin them in exacting that which ought not to have been charged. We know well that this forms but a poor argument for non-payment now; and yet it is an element which may not unfitly be admitted to enter into an equitable consideration of the subject. It is proper that we should point out to the Government the necessity for the greatest carefulness in dealing with the cases of settlers in arrears. There may be, there doubtless are, some who are in a position to pay up without making any great sacrifice; but, on the other hand, there are undoubtedly some, possibly many, who cannot do so. Better let two or three of the former class escape present payment than sacrifice one of the latter. The honest, struggling settler *must not* be driven from his homestead for the sake of the miserable instalments due the Government.

Tuesday March 7.

PUGET SOUND ITEMS. — The following is condensed from the Seattle *Intelligencer*:—Mr Dismore, the agent of the company who has negotiated for the purchase of the interests of the Seattle Coal Company, and the transportation line connected therewith, is on his way to Seattle to take possession of the property....A session of the U S District Court is being held at Port Townsend. The docket is light....During last month over 3000 letters and 5000 newspapers arrived at Seattle by mail....The man W B Bird, who was to have been tried by Court Martial at Fort Vancouver on a charge of murder committed at Alaska, has been remanded to Fort Alcatraz, in California. The prisoner protests against being tried by Court Martial, claiming to be a civilian, not a soldier, at the time of the alleged murder. He also claims that the shooting of Cowen was purely accidental, having occurred during an affray being Capt Dennison and the prisoner....An American in Victoria has written to the Seattle *Intelligencer* in reference to the practice of 'Northern Indian women visiting the Sound and carrying away many thousands of dollars, which they spend at that city.' He deprecates the traffic and asks what is to be done. The editor of the *Intelligencer* comes to the very sensible conclusion that so long as these people break no law they have a right to come and go and spend their money where they please. Wonder who the correspondent can be!

RAISING THE "CAPTAIN."—A correspondent of the *Engineer*, in reference to the possible raising of the "Captain," says: For accurately finding the position of the ship, electro-magnetic appliances may be used. They would consist of cables inclosing conducting wires and having attached to the ends magnetic arrangements for dragging along the sea bottom so that when they touch any iron portion of the ship an indication would be given on the surface.

THE VARUNA.—This small steamer, after taking in stores at Victoria, about two weeks ago put in at Neah Bay and lay there until a severe blow had abated. She sailed from Neah Bay about twelve days since for Portland, since which time nothing has been heard of her; and as fierce gales have since prevailed along this Northern Coast grave apprehensions are felt for her safety. The Varuna is a very strong vessel, built originally for a tow-boat, but was not adapted to a sea voyage.

INTERESTING SCENES.—In our exclusive dispatch of last night will be found a very interesting and graphic account of the appearance and actions of the Germans while in Paris. The Arch of Triumph appears to have been the point of attraction to the Bavarians. The evacuation appears to have been conducted in an orderly manner, and we feel happy to know that the good sense of the Parisians prevented the commission of outrages that might have drawn down upon their heads a swift and terrible punishment.

CHINESE CUTTING CASE. — This case, so long prolonged, was closed yesterday by both litigants being committed on cross charges; and both were convicted, also, on a separate charge by the authorities for causing an affray in the public streets. Bonds for their appearance were ordered by the Court for $1000 for the principals and $250 for two sureties. As Son availed himself of this privilege, but Ah Sam, having fewer friends, still remains a prisoner.

FOR SKEENAMOUTH.—The Isabel will not, we understand, be able to go to Skeenamouth quite so soon as was intended; but the Grappler will, in all probability, be laid on immediately after the arrival of the California steamer, should sufficient inducement offer.

ST PATRICK'S DAY.—We observe that the anniversary of the natal day of the Patron Saint of Ireland is not to be allowed to pass away unimproved. At Gymnasium Hall, View street, a *soiree dansante* of the McClure street Dancing Academy is announced. Tickets $1, admitting a gentleman and ladies, to be had of members of the Academy. The music will be conducted by Mr Haynes, and a collation will be prepared.

FOR THE SOUND.—The steamer Olympia, Capt Finch, arrived from ports on the Sound at 4 30 o'clock yesterday. A stiff sou' easter prevailed on the Sound yesterday. The Olympia brought a large number of passengers and a great many head of live stock.

SINGULAR.—A young printer dropped down [illegible] in Oregon City a few days ago, and though there is no doubt in the minds of medical men that he is really dead, the body remains as flexible as in life with some degree of warmth. The family refuse to have the body interred.

RUMORED WRECK.—Indians from Fort Rupert reported yesterday that McKay's large schooner Favorite had been lost at Newitt, near Fort Rupert and all hands, save a Nowitti halfbreed, lost. The report is doubted and after a large tramp yesterday our reporter failed to discover the originators of the rumor.

THE mail steamer Isabel, Capt Starr, arrived at 9 o'clock last evening and will leave at 11 o'clock this morning for Puget Sound. She brought a small Sound and Coast mail but no English letters.

THE LEGISLATURE will sit again to-day, when it is expected that the Contested Elections Bill, the most voluminous measure of the present session, will be brought down. It is believed that the Council will continue in session for several weeks yet, in order to learn the result of the action of the Dominion Parliament upon the Terms of Union.

PAY YOUR TAXES AND SAVE YOUR PROPERTY.—In the list of Seattle lots advertised for sale by auction in default of the payment of the school tax, we observe the names of many residents of Victoria, who would do well to remit the little amounts and thereby prevent the forfeiture of their lots.

WEEKLY COLONIST.—The *Weekly Colonist*, containing the latest foreign and domestic intelligence, may be had at the booksetores of T N Hibben & Co and David Spencer, and at the publication office. Price 12½ cents.

THE bark Prince of Wales has been chartered to carry a cargo of wheat from Portland, Oregon, to Queenstown, Ireland, for orders.

THE North Pacific Railroad Company having disposed of the Kalama (calamity!) town lots are about to start another 'terminus' on Columbia river. Smart fellows those.

NEAT SALE.—Mr Lumley Franklin's next sale will take place to-morrow, when general merchandise and furniture will be offered.

WHISKY SELLING.—Michael Darcey was yesterday brought before the Police Court on a charge of supplying whisky to Indians. The accused was remanded for three days.

THE CALIFORNIA had not reached Port land up six o'clock last evening. She is said to have lain in Neah Bay until Friday.

THE schooner Cambria has run into Sooke harbor for shelter.

THE OLYMPIA will await the arrival of the Pacific before sailing for Puget Sound.

LOW.—The barometer, yesterday morning, fell to 28.75.

THE PACIFIC, having had a fair wind since Saturday, will be due to-night.

GUBERNATORIAL PALACE.—The new residence erected for the Governor of Ontario—the "Gubernatorial Palace," as the *Globe* designates it,—cost $105.337, being a trifle over five per cent in excess of the original estimate. The opposition press considers this excess very large. The ministerial press regards it as very trifling. As estimates generally go the difference is certainly large.

All the islands in Lake Erie are now reached with teams, the ice connecting with the mainland being very thick and perfectly safe.

A REQUISITE SUPPLIED.—To avoid the necessity which has heretofore existed of sending to San Francisco to have finished Bookbinding Robert Williams has by study, application and practice in the largest establishments in California, perfected himself in the art of Bookbinding and Ruling, both plain and ornamental, and is supplied with all the necessary material and machinery. Always to be found at T N Hibben & Co's.*

DECIDEDLY BUSY.—The rush of people to Nolteman's Boot and Shoe Store, adjoining the St Nicholas Hotel, is unprecedented, and the cry is—'Still they come.' The goods were sold lower than ever before, and the closing out sale will be continued this week at a still greater reduction.

NEWS FOR THE LADIES.—A new Shuttle Lock Stitch Sewing Machine has just been received by R Beavan, Government street. Price $40. Call and examine them.*

Coal Mining Matters.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—It may be interesting to know, by way of comparison, a few facts relating to the pay of colliers or coal miners in this Colony and Nova Scotia, not only because our miners would wish to make out they cannot live, but because the future development of out coal fields bears greatly on the question of wages. The writer has made some enquiry to ascertain what difference there is between the pay of the one place and the other, and it will be surprising to many, there is no doubt, to learn that the variation is so large. Whether the disparity in rates of living at the two places is as great I am not just now in a position to say. I am informed it is not, and I aver, therefore, that British Columbia in one of the best spots in the world for the working man who can get work, and will work, and save while he is at work.

In Nova Scotia a collier picks up after dynamite and powder, a little over $1 per day. Laborers about the coal works receive from sixty-five to seventy cents a day. In British Columbia the colliers make it a rule not to pick up more than $3 a day of eight hours, and they are furnished with fuel free of charge. Laborers are paid $1 75 per day, and are allowed to purchase fuel at a nominal price. The British Columbia workmen are unquestionably paid much better, all things considered, than those of Nova Scotia, and, as will naturally follow, coal is dearer in the former place than at the latter.

Now, the most casual observer will hardly fail to admit that the Colony has received tangible benefits from the large expenditure at the coal mining establishment of the Nanaimo Coal Company. Nor will any one who read the lately published card of the Company do otherwise than conclude that preseverring efforts have been put forth to further augment the business of the mines—a matter of vital importance to the Island particulary — for without a hold can be got and preserved in the California market, what is coal mining worth to British Columbia? To sustain a competition with Australian coal at San Francisco our coal companies must be enabled at sell at a considerable abatement in price, and without they can accomplish that object the demand would be narrowed down to the insignificant requirements of this Colony! I hold, therefore, that miners are too well paid already. If I am correctly informed there are five hotels at Nanaimo, maintained almost entirely by the mining population, yet if you meet one of these men he will tell you that he can barely make wages sufficient to live on. Surely there is evidence to the contrary, and one need not go to much trouble to produce it.

H. M. J.

VICTORIA, Feb. 25th, 1870.

The Franchise Bill.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—A portion of a clause in this bill reads thus: 'Any British subject who can read the language of his country.' The clause in which that sentence appears was amended to confer the franchise on British subjects who had been foreigners; but it excludes them. The language of the country of a British subject is English. We could understand the meaning of the clause if written, 'Any British subject who can read the language of the country that *was his*.' But indeed the whole clause is a bad one. Are we to have an army of interpreters? Without them how is the returning officer to decide the question of right to vote?

I happen to know several British subjects in this colony who cannot read, but who have by industry and prudence acquired property worth several thousand dollars. In England these men would be entitled to vote. In British Columbia they are disfranchised, and why? Because it is desirable to exclude the native Indians and the ignorant Chinese!! The excuse was accepted in the Legislative Council by our popular representatives. It is a poor excuse. On the same principle a man may excuse himself for hanging *three* men because *two* are guilty.

The educated idlor, the gambler—any British subject who can read—may be entitled to vote, but the hard-working, industrious, intelligent man who happens to be unfortunate in early life is denied the privilege! This is not British justice. There can be no difficulty in framing a clause to admit this deserving class and exclude the others; it would be an improvement to the Bill.

G. A. K.

Victoria, March 6, 1871.

SUNDAY'S DISPATCHES.

Europe.

LONDON, March 3—The occupation of Paris terminates at 11 o'clock Friday morning. The Mobiles and National Guards disbanded and the trenches around the town are being filled up.

In the House of Commons Gladstone was ill and retired early.

Duke gave notice of a resolution regretting the government assent to the conference on the conditions dictated by Gortzchakoff.

The disposition of the Colonial policy approves of affairs in South Africa.

Eastern States.

WASHINGTON, March 4—Both Houses at a few minutes past 12 o'clock to-day proceeded to the organization of a new Congress. The President and members of his cabinet, with his private secretary, occupied the President's room near the Senate Chamber.

NEW YORK, March 4—The *World's* financial article says that the Bank of England has advanced the rate of discount to a half per cent and says the cotton market is in a state of demoralization, bordering on panic. The advance in the rate of discount is a precautionary measure in the event of a sudden and great withdrawal of money from the London market where it has been deposited for safety by persons on the Continent of Europe during the war. The decline in the price and the tendency to panic in the cotton market in Liverpool and New York is caused by notifications of loans to be returned by speculators who are overloaded with cotton. No doubt the Bank of England commenced the policy of contraction on its accommodations to all foreign firms and speculators who are likely to weaken its resources of coin. There was a more active demand for foreign bills of exchange in the New York market yesterday, owing to telegrams from firms in Europe to correspondents here for remittances to strengthen themselves against eventualities. The decline in price within the last twenty-four hours is equal to nine millions.

WASHINGTON, March 3—A Bill to reduce the price of cable rates to $5 for ten words, gold, exclusive of address and signature has been introduced.

LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES.

Europe.

BAUSSERS, March 4 — Dispatches from [illegible] disturbances at Angers, an important city in the French Department of Maine et Loraine, in which several persons were killed and wounded.

Measures for placing the Belgian army on a peace footing have been carried out.

VERSAILLES, March 4—Emperor William reviewed the German Landwher Guards, artillery and pioneers on the Bois de Boulogue yesterday. Prince Frederick William, Gen Moltke and Bismarck were present.

All restrictions as to persons passing in and out of Paris have been removed.

The Emperor goes to Berlin on Monday.

BORDEAUX, March 4—Deputies Rochefort, Blanc, Mallow and Trindon resigned their seats, considering the cession of Alsace illegal.

LONDON, March 4—An Amiens dispatch dated 3d inst, says the greatest joy at the announcement of the conclusion of the peace arrangements has been manifested at headquarters and throughout the first army corps.

The Prussian wounded have been sent home.

It is expected that the first army corps will march in three days. The Emperor will not go to Stutgart or Munich, but proceed direct to Berlin.

Gen Geoben leaves for Rouen to-morrow.

FLORENCE, March 4 — It is officially announced that a Treaty of Commerce with the United States has been signed.

LONDON, March 4—The French Commander has requested the German General in command to give him arms for two companies and two cannon to preserve the public peace, as workmen are intent on making riotous demonstrations when the German troops have evacuated Paris. No more requisitions are issued upon the inhabitants, and many Prussian officers decline to dine at houses upon which they are billeted unless they are invited by their host because they are now in receipt of regular allowances.

A Royal Commission has condemned the ironclad Waterwitch whose engines worked by hydraulic power. The iron-clad Hotspur has been approved by the same Board as a coast defence ship, but declared to be unsuitable for ocean voyages.

A letter Paris, dated the 3rd, states that the avenues are almost deserted. There is an extraordinary scene at the Arc du Triomphe. Two pieces of artillery have been placed in position, with gunners near at hand, ready to sweep every avenue radiating from the Arc. There is a strong guard of infantry with arms piles in the vicinity, and the soldiers are singing from song books. There is much difference in their tempers. Some fraternize with the Blouses and exchange lights, cigars and drink wine, while others do not allow strangers near their fires. All are boasting of the conquest of Alsace and Lorraine, yet are glad the war is over that they may get back to Fatherland. There is a strong guard of Bavarians lying on the ground in front of the gates of the Tuilleries. The Bavarian soldiers are picking immortelles from the statue of Strasburg. Frenchmen passing by pelted the ware. At midnight I ventured in. A large body of Guards are stationed around the watch fires.

Another letter from a French lady, says the Prussian occupancy of Paris is ended. The evacuation commenced last night. It was not generally known. At six o'clock in the morning it began in regular order with cavalry and artillery in advance. The Prussian and Bavarian infantry faced right about at 8:30. The first of the main body passed through the Arc du Triomphe with bands playing and colors flying. Right under the Arc obstacles had been removed, and at the side of the column Gen Shockage commanding the 11th corps were stationed and received the salutes of the men passing. Many men wore eagles on their epaulets and one regiment wore laurels. At nine o'clock the 2d Bavarian infantry and artillery occupied the Bois. The artillery is accompanied by full bands. In a few moments afterwards the head of the Prussian column reached the Arch, marching in columns.

Utah.

SALT LAKE, March 3—A letter received from a reliable party in East Canyon says good placer diggings have been struck there and creeks are located for miles.

California

SAN FRANCISCO, March 5—Sailed—Stmr Ajax, Astoria. Brigs Deacon, Puget Sound; Sheet Anchor, Coos Bay.

Oregon.

PORTLAND March 5—Arrived this evening at 7 o'clock, steamer Idaho from San Francisco.

It is a great mistake to suppose that the cause of rheumatism, neuralgia or gout exists where the pain is experienced. The source of the disease is generally "urea," in the blood, and it is one of the special properties of Dr Walker's Vegetable Vinegar Bitters to neutralize this deposit, while it renovates the relaxed kidneys and thus prevents them from permitting a portion of their secretion to escape through improper channels. Torpidity of the stomach has also much to do with the vitiation of the blood, and upon this organ the Bitters act directly as a stimulant and invigorant. 3