

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, February 15th 1871

Supreme Court of Canada

In 1869 a bill to create a Supreme Court for the Dominion was introduced into the House of Commons. The bill miscarried. In 1870 a bill of similar import was introduced into the same house. It also miscarried. In 1871 a bill, having the same object, but differing from its predecessors in several details, is to be introduced into the Dominion Parliament. The following is an epitome of the principal provisions of the proposed bill: A Court will be established, consisting of a Chief Justice and six Puisne Judges, which is to have appellate and criminal jurisdiction throughout the Dominion. To it appeal is to lie from the Court of Error and Appeal of Ontario, from the Queen's Bench of Quebec, from the Superior Courts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, from the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and from any Superior Court of last resort now existing or which may be established in Canada, and an appeal by consent from any of the Appeal Courts of any and all of the Provinces of the Dominion directly. The Court is to hold two terms annually, in June and January, at Ottawa, continuing for twenty days or more at the discretion of the judges. It provides that the Governor in Council may direct a special case to be laid before the Supreme Court, sitting in term, in which special case may be set forth any Act passed by the Legislature of any Province, and thereupon may be stated, for the opinion of the Supreme Court, such questions as to the constitutionality of the said Act, or of any provision or provisions of the said Act, as the Governor may order. Original jurisdiction is given to the Court in all cases where it shall be sought to enforce any law of Canada relating to revenue or extradition. We have not the means of judging as to the reception this bill is likely to meet with at the hands of Parliament, but should it become law British Columbia will equally with the other Provinces, be interested in its working. Indeed, the absence of a Court of Appeal here will cause the people of the Pacific Province to look with exceptional interest to the establishment of such a Court.

Thursday, Feb. 9th

A SCORE FOR OUR BUILDERS AND ARCHITECTS TO CRACK.—Our regular correspondent at San Francisco says that the Newcastle Island steamer, being used in the erection of the new Branch Mill at San Francisco is a failure, because it discharges its refuse into the sea. He also learns that the building will probably be completed with another description of stone. Some of our best buildings are built of Newcastle stone, and it appears to stand well the action of cold and damp to which it would never be subjected in the dry and warm climate of San Francisco. We should be glad to hear from the sensible and practical minds of our builders and architects on the subject.

The quinquennial census of the United States has just been completed and shows that the Union contains a population of 39,000,000, or a trifle more than Great Britain. It has increased 22 per cent in the decade, and at the same rate will, in 1900, reach 75,000,000. Of these about 60,000,000 are whites, as they increase, notwithstanding the war, nearly as fast as the whites. The largest State, New York, now numbers 4,370,000, or a million more than the six New England States, which collectively number only 3,482,000, or a fourth of the population of the West, now about twelve millions.

THE SCHOONER BLACK DIAMOND arrived from Nantico yesterday morning with a load of coal for Brodrie & Co. The Sheering Star has a cargo of coal on board and will sail to-day. The Discovery is loading coal at Newcastle Island. The Geo S. Wright left for Sitka on Saturday night at 12 o'clock. She was detained inside of Columbia river ten days by bad weather. The Company have commenced to pump the water out of the pit which will require about six weeks. There are no vessels at the quay.

THOMAS'S ROAD STRAMMERS.—One of these steamers recently found its way to San Francisco, where it has been exhibiting the people with signs of its performance, and where it appears to have triumphantly passed through every test to which it has been subjected—such, for instance, as hauling a heavy load up steep gradients, passing over soft ground, and drawing six ploughs turning soft furrows. The Bulletin says that the experiments were entirely successful and the spectators were highly pleased.

DIED AT SAN FRANCISCO.—M. P. P. P., an old French resident and for many years keeper of the Oriental Restaurant, died at San Francisco on the 3d inst.

Supreme Court

Woodcock vs Hankin.—An application to revise judgment and to issue execution, and a counter application to set aside judgment. Judgment of the Court deferred in consequence of the important points involved in the case. J. R. Robertson, instructed by Mr Bishop, for plaintiff; Mr McCreight, instructed by Mr Courtney, for defendant.

FREE COINAGE.—The San Francisco Bulletin has an article advocating free coinage at the State mint. Great Britain, it says, has had free coinage for over a century. Had California enjoyed the same during the past 20 years there would have been added to its circulating medium one thousand millions. The charges made at the California mint or coinage is one half of one per cent.

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THANKS to Mr Pickett of Wells, Fargo & Co, and Mr Johnson of the steamship Pacific for important favors.

THE CANADIAN FISHERIES are estimated at \$50,000,000 a year, and they give employment to 80,000 men.

NEW GOODS.—Daly, Wilson & Co received by the Pacific a large invoice of leather, and findings.

THE Executive Council had a protracted meeting yesterday.

LÉMONS and LIMES are very high and very scarce at San Francisco.

Hops at San Francisco are selling at 25 cents.

LEASE DOWN.—The telegraph wire was down during yesterday.

Our San Francisco Letter

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.] SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 3rd, 1871.

Advices from Washington indicate that but few hopes are entertained of the passage of the proposed subsidies either to the Australian line of steamers or the projected line from Puget Sound to the Sandwich Islands. The announcement of this anticipated result has been received here with much dissatisfaction, as it must eventually result in the withdrawal of the service between this port and London with the consequent loss of what promises to be a flourishing trade. The Pacific mail company is also about to withdraw its vessels from the Panama route and place them on the China and Japan line. This will compel shippers to send their freight either overland or round the horn. It is understood that the arrangement was effected in the interest of the railroad companies, these being naturally anxious to procure a monopoly of the traffic. You are perhaps interested in learning that an English line of steamers is to be put on between this city and the Inter-oceanic railway, now half built across Honduras, but of course it will be a considerable time before this is done.

A MINERS CONVENTION has been held at Sacramento this last week in accordance with resolutions adopted at a public meeting held in London on the 15th of July last, the proceedings of which were published by the Times and Morning Journal on the following day. It was called a 'Miners Convention,' but the more appropriate term would have been a convention of mine owners. The object aimed at was to take such means as might be necessary to re-establish the impaired credit of Californian mining speculations with English capitalists. The convention was well attended and resulted in the formation of a Protective Union which undertakes to examine into the value of all mining schemes proposed in the London market. Banks are to be opened in London, Paris, Frankfurt and other European financial centres in which will be kept a full record of Pacific coast mines; their relative value, prospective and real, and the inducements which they may offer for the investment of capital—a sort of mining Lloyd's in fact. The promoters of this institution expect that its effect will be to bring a large amount of capital into the State, but their expectations are not shared either by the press or the public.

A DIAMOND EXPEDITION, Mr A. T. Elliot, formerly of your city, has chartered a vessel for Algoa bay, to take passengers and freight for the new diamond fields in South Africa. Many parties have already been engaged, though no date is yet advertised for her departure. Passage rates are fixed at \$200 first class, \$125 second class. Freight—Flour, \$12 50 per ton.

NEWCASTLE SANDSTONE. I hear that the superintendent of the new Mint, now being erected on Sixth st, is very much dissatisfied with the quality of the stone furnished from Newcastle Island in your colony. It is said that it actually dissolves when submerged in maritime acid. Representations on the subject have been forwarded to Washington, and it is not improbable that some other stone will yet be used in the completion of the building.

AN OLD FRIEND arrived in port the other day—none other than the old Rosedale, the bark that went ashore some few years ago near Mr Barnaby's house, and the refitting of which furnished employment for about 50 men during the winter of '62. She left Glasgow on the 24th of last May and met with a continuance of misfortune through the voyage, having to put into two places for repairs. Another well known vessel—the Robt Lowe—is now engaged in grappling for the damaged Atlantic cable, or was a few weeks since. She is stationed at Halifax, N. S., by her owners the Telegraph company, and is constantly employed in maintaining the wires.

WILLIAM MOBLEY PUNSON, the great English preacher, by many regarded as the first living orator will arrive here some time in March. He is to lecture on behalf of the Chinese missions, and the largest hall in the city has been already secured for that purpose. He has been residing for some time in Canada and his name and fame are no doubt familiar to the majority of British Columbians.

Reviews praised it as the most charming magazine article of the season. Since then everything that Mr Harris wrote has been carefully read and his name is now a household word. His 'Heavenly Chinese' has been for the last few weeks perhaps the most frequently quoted in the English language. Its quaintness of language and incidents together with the fact that it struck a popular chord by mildly stating the exaggerated fears of those who see in the introduction of Chinese the ruin of the country, accounts for its adoption as a public favorite. Many people look upon Mr Harris as the most promising writer in the whole field of American literature, and this view is even sustained by the Edinburgh Review. By the way I was not aware until a few days ago (and it may be news to your readers) that the 'Carroll literature' Chambers journal for 1865 contains a novel running through the volume, called 'Mirk Abbey,' the hero of which is a returned William Cressman, who certainly acts and talks as if he had been there.

THE NORTHERN RAILROAD Company's Officers have completed arrangements for the construction of the first section of their line. It will run from Olympia on the Sound to Monticello on the Columbia, a distance of about ninety miles, the first five of which are already to be completed by the end of July, proximo. The Messrs Cauda of Chicago have taken the contract, and the Pacific Rolling Mills of this city are now engaged in making the rails. A contract has also been effected for the employment of two thousand Chinamen, and the first instalment of them will go forward in a week or two. The financial destinies of the enterprise are in the hands of J. V. Cooke & Co. These facts have already been mentioned but I do not remember having seen any mention of them in the Colonist.

THE LOWER CALIFORNIA COMPANY'S Colonization Scheme has come to a sudden and disastrous end. The rose colored tints which were pictured the benefits and charms of life on the Gulf have faded, and the 'colossal' and that barren rocks and arid sand deserts are the only earthly Paradise to be found in Magdalena Bay. Those who went down to the scene last year denouncing the scheme, and are now anxious to return to Martin Chuzzlewit and his faithful Mark were to leave the aquatic city of Eden. The failure of the Company's statements about the advantages of the Bay as a place of settlement have only just been exposed in time to prevent a rash return. Quite an excitement had been aroused here, and but for the exposure a thousand people would have left this city for the colony within the next two months.

OF course our German residents have celebrated the CAPTIVATION OF PARIS with the most intense enthusiasm that such an event demanded. Fireworks, cannons, bombs, processions, illuminations and public meetings have kept them pretty well employed of evenings since the surrender was announced. While the sympathies of Californians appear to be mainly to be very decidedly in favor of the victors, there is a general feeling of rejoicing at the prospect of a termination of the war. Apart from humanitarian motives, Californians desire the struggle to be finished as soon as possible. At its commencement it was supposed that this State would be a large gainer by the increased demand for wines and the enhanced value of grain. These expectations have only been realized to a very limited extent, while other results have more than balanced the small profit. A general subscription is to be started for the relief of the suffering French, and a government vessel is to be laid on at Boston to receive gifts of provisions, merchandise, etc, for the same purpose.

GENERAL MENTION. Last advices from Melbourne quote California salmon at 12s per dozen in the 4th of 1871 for lots in bulk. It can be determined from these rates whether it will pay to export from Victoria.

W. T. HALLON, well known in British Columbia from having been formerly engaged in running a Cariboo express, has opened a navigation and commission house in this city and is doing a prosperous business.

J. F. SWANWICK has been appointed Secretary and cash of the association recently formed for the purpose of doing book and job printing at the College rates, thus keeping work in the State that was fast gravitating altogether to the City of Divorces.

Mr Broderick talks of opening a skating rink at Victoria before long. There are now three rinks open in this city, two of them being under Mr Broderick's management. With the exception of the debut of Miss Rose Evans, an Australian actress at the California, theatrical matters present nothing worthy of special mention. Miss Evans leaped at once into popular favor and has drawn brilliant and crowded houses.

Chairman of the Anti-Corn League

died while on his way by train to a railway directors' meeting at Liverpool. The Prince of Wales has accepted the Presidency of the Scottish Corporation. Mr Monsell, M P who hitherto has filled the post of Under-Secretary for the Colonies has been appointed Postmaster-General. Mr Cardwell has addressed a letter to Mr Gladstone, in which he shows that he was correct in stating last July, that 800,000 breechloaders were in store. This statement had been disputed in the Greenock position calling on Mr Gladstone to resign his seat. Mr Otway has resigned the office of Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and will be succeeded by Lord Enfield, M P. It is understood that Mr Davison, M P, is the new Judge-Advocate General. The Italian Parliament has decided that the transfer of the capital to Rome shall be made on July 1st 1871. The small-pox is unusually virulent in London, and extraordinary provision is being made in all parishes for treating the outbreak. The Mont-Cenis Tunnel is being completed. Several deaths from starvation have occurred in London. In most instances the deceased persons had refused to enter the Workhouses. There have been heavy floods and the ice-drifts in the northern rivers, and on the Wear many vessels were driven out to sea and sustained damage. Charges of cruelty were brought by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals against the huntsmen and whips of Lord Middleton, for causing the death of two horses from fatigue, during a hunting run. The magistrates dismissed the summonses. Mr Campbell, of Edenwood has been nominated Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. There is a probability of a restoration of the sample and pattern post to something like its former limits. The new flying squadron under the command of Rear-Admiral Beauchamp Seymour, C B, is under orders to sail for the West Indies, Lord Walsingham, Lord de Balquiere, Lord Henry Bontinck, Major-General Lord Henry Paulet, C B, and Mr Philip Hardwick, R A, have died since our last issue. A Corners jury found that Lord Walsingham had committed suicide. The frost still continued all over England, although in London, the cold is not so intense as it has been. The river is completely blocked with ice above the bridge, and in the Pool great difficulty is experienced in towing large vessels to their berths. Skating matches in the Fens, and the thousands of people on the ice in the parks, show that all advantage is taken of the safe condition of the ice, which is now four inches thick on the Serpentine.

THE NORTHERN RAILROAD

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The Public Schools

We have not the means of knowing what degree of elasticity the Inspector of Public Schools proposes imparting to the existing law, during the present session; but we may say that 'elasticity' is not alone necessary in order to effectual working of the system. I much as a new Bill is not to be expected from the present Legislature, it perhaps, as well that its action should be confined to imparting greater elasticity to the old one, with the view that it can be kept in motion until a new dispensation shall have parted greater elasticity to our existing system. We trust the question of Education, coming up, as it will, at the close of an eventful session, will be shrouded over as if it were a matter of secondary importance, but that will receive attention in some degree commensurate with its importance. There are few questions that are of greater public concernment, or have a stronger claim upon the attention of the Legislature than that of education. Whether or not the public are concerned about it is another question. We measure the degree of interest it appears to evoke in this community, to be feared that it would have a claim to the prominence which we give it. The apathy exhibited by principal community in the Colony, on this subject constitutes the most disconcerting circumstance with which friends of popular education have to contend. But we wish to point out a danger of improper use being made of this circumstance by well-meaning persons. Does this indifference to the subject, on the part of the people of V. really constitute a legitimate argument against Legislative and Executive action? It occurs to us that the reverse may be the case. If it be true that knowledge is power, if a liberal education for masses constitutes the only safe foundation of national greatness, a mere indifference to educational matters on the part of the people increases rather than diminishes the necessity for legislative and executive action. Instead, therefore, of referring to the indifference of the people as an excuse for leaving the educational system of the country in the wretched condition in which they now are, diseased state of the public mind, to be regarded as an alarming symptom demanding prompt and thorough remedy, we would not, in view of the circumstances, advocate an attempt at framing a new educational act during the present session; but would most earnestly urge the dealing with the old law, the 'elasticity' imparted to it, may be of a sufficient thorough and radical character to enable the public schools to be reformed and efficiently worked until time as new and more perfect machinery can be brought into working order. The sum of fifteen thousand dollars been set apart for educational purposes this year. That sum would be adequate to defray the entire expense of maintaining the public schools, and yet, in the hands of the Inspector, with sufficient discretion, power to apply it towards educational purposes, would, having regard to the greatest possible number, having regard to local effort, that sum would be a most valuable asset. It is therefore, therefore, that all cramped and unworkable restrictions may be eradicated from the present Bill, to the greatest possible amount of good be attained during the present year, the amount of money available for educational purposes. And, we desire to impress upon the Government the necessity for prompt and efficient action. We are now well into the second month, and the public mind is still closed, the child the poorer classes for the most running about the streets in idleness, and consequent mischief.

Dominion Mail Summary

The Pacific brought us Canadian changes on the 27th ult. In the Telegraph (Toronto) of the 23rd is published a special dispatch from here announcing the passage by the Legislature of Ontario of the Terms of Union. Two days later an official dispatch of similar import was received at Ottawa. When H. R. H. Eriquo Arthur was in Canada he paid a visit to the Six Nations Indians, near Brantford. The Prince was not only most loyally received but was elected one of their Chiefs, an honor never bestowed upon a 'pale face,' and which the Prince gratefully accepted. Recently these people were the recipients of pleasing and palpable evidence that their illustrious Chief had not forgotten them, and that he had not only remembered them, but that he had also remembered their interests. The late Prime Minister, Mr. Galt, delivered a lecture before the Literary Society at Ottawa on the 26th. His subject was the Young Men of the Dominion, and the lecture is referred to as being a most able and interesting one. A Canadian contemporary, who ought to have known better, puts the present population of British Columbia down at 200,000. Agents of the French Government were at Halifax, enquiring into the possibility of the purchase of 'mistaking large purchases of wheat and oats.'

ST. CHARLES HOTEL

CORNER FRONT AND MORRISON STREETS, PORTLAND, OREGON. JOHN J. JACOBS - Proprietor. HAVING LEASED THIS NEW AND ELEGANT HOTEL, which is built of brick iron-bound, with Family and Single Rooms, SPACIOUSLY FURNISHED FOR ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY GUESTS, and supplied with all the modern improvements for their comfort, with fine Venetian Blinds, Gas, &c. The proprietor trusts that the reputation won for the St. Charles Hotel in Victoria, B.C. under his management, will be a guarantee to the numerous friends and the public of his purpose and ability to make his hotel comfortable and respectable. - JOHN J. JACOBS, Proprietor. KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES - When an Angerly Inflammation of the Throat, or Croup, whooping Cough, or other Affection of the Throat, is attended with a hoarse and raspy voice, and the patient is unable to speak, these Lozenges will be found to be a most valuable and effective remedy. - Sold by all the principal Dispensaries and Grocers.