

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, September 27 1864. STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH PANAMA.

In another column will be found an able and interesting letter from His Excellency Governor Kennedy to the Legislative Council, on the desirability of having direct steam communication with Panama. His Excellency is of opinion that if the people of these colonies bestir themselves in the matter the Home Government might be induced to go warmly into the subject. Mr. Childers, who has been recently appointed to the Admiralty, His Excellency believes to be favorable to the establishing of a British line of steamers to connect these colonies with the Isthmus, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer is also supposed to favor the project; so far as these two gentlemen are concerned, Governor Kennedy is correct in his surmise. Mr. Childers is a prominent man in the Southampton and West Indian line, and exerted himself to the utmost last year to inaugurate an English line of steamers to ply on the North Pacific. The scheme was, however, part and parcel of a much larger one—steam communication to Australia via Panama. The agents of New Zealand and New South Wales were ready to guarantee their part large subsidies from their respective Colonial Governments, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer seemed to be willing to favor the project; there was, however, a hitch when the question of the Vancouver Island and British Columbia subsidy came on. The company seemed unwilling to undertake this part of the project for a less sum than £50,000 a year, or about £1000 a week. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer was seen about the matter he gave something like an assurance that he would pay an equal sum to that contributed by the colonies; but as that would leave Vancouver Island and British Columbia to pay the sum of £25,000—an amount which was stated to Mr. Childers and others at the time to be far beyond their capacity—the negotiations came to a termination. There is no doubt, as His Excellency truly remarks, that the present is a most opportune period for bringing the matter officially before the British Government. Considering the onerous nature of such a subsidy as that demanded of us, the English Cabinet might throw the self-supporting dogma over for once, especially in a matter where they themselves are so vitally concerned, and give us the necessary assistance. At all events we can lose nothing by putting our case clearly before the Imperial authorities, and showing them that we are willing to contribute in proportion to our means, but of course only in a fair proportion. The community is indebted to His Excellency for taking this desirable step, and we only hope that something tangible will grow out of it.

THE OVERLAND TELEGRAPH—LETTER FROM DR. RAB.

A friend of Dr. Rab's residing in Victoria has kindly allowed us to publish the following interesting letter, received by him from the above well known Arctic explorer and traveller, explaining the object of his unexpected visit west of the Rocky Mountains:—

POST ALBERTA, 6th Sept. 1864. MY DEAR — You once proposed that I should make a survey of the country from Red River to British Columbia, with the view of proving the practicability of making a railway or tunneling a telegraph between those places, and I was very anxious to do some across the mountains to look out a route for the latter, and I think there will be no difficulty in carrying it out. My coming out was rather a hurried affair, as I knew nothing about the matter until nine days before leaving England. I came across by the Leather Pass to the Tete Jaune Cache, sent my assistant back with three of the men and fourteen of the horses, bought two small Indian canoes, and not being able to get a guide, came down with three men and ran all the rapids safely, and from Fort George sent back the Red River men, for whom five horses were left at Edmonton, and I came to this place in a small canoe, with one man, the day before yesterday.

My opinion of the route is favorable for a telegraph. The difficulties will be falling timber and fire, both of which may be to a great extent guarded against. To-morrow I start for Cariboo with the view of finding a shorter road to the Tete Jaune, and hope to get much information from Judge Boggs at William Creek. I expect to be at Victoria in about three weeks from this time (as I shall be absent on my Cariboo trip about twelve days), and hope to have a long chat with you, when I will be able to give you more particulars. With kind regards to Mrs. —, believe me, very truly yours, JOHN RAB.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Alexandra arrived from New Westminster yesterday morning with 30 passengers and about \$100,000 in gold, of which \$50,000 was for McDonald & Co., bankers, in charge of hon. E. T. Smith, \$12,000 by Dietz & Nelson and the remainder in private hands.

The steamer Enterprise arrived down at 8:30 p. m., with 40 to 50 passengers and a small quantity of treasure. The news from Cariboo is unimportant; a heavy freshet had occurred on Williams Creek, doing a great deal of damage. Red Hook Drain received considerable injury and a great many shafts on different claims were filled up with water. Numbers of parties were obliged to give up their claims for the season.

The report of the strike made by the Artesian Boring Company on their ground in the Meadows is confirmed, and revived confidence is felt among the claim-owners in that neighborhood. Times generally are very dull in Cariboo, and many are on the way down, some of them being "strapped."

COLUMBIAN ITEMS. We learn from G. Landvoigt, Esq., who came down from Hope yesterday, that he had struck on Pierre River, a small stream which falls into the Coquihale about 18 miles above Hope. The Governor gave \$200 some time ago for the purpose of promoting the prospecting of this stream and the above is the first result. The party are engaged in sinking for the bed-rock, when it is hoped still more satisfactory results will follow.

The Grappler was at Port Moody, Burrard's Inlet, on Tuesday last. She had Mr. Duncan and Dr. Walker on board and would sail for Metlakahla next day en route to look for the Random.

The Random is lying at anchor at San Juan Island in charge of the authorities, having been abandoned by her crew.—Ed.)

Gilchrist, the man who shot another at Williams Lake last year, has been pardoned by the Governor on condition of his leaving these colonies. He came down to Victoria last week on his way to his home in the Eastern States.

The steamer Henrietta was sold last Saturday to Capt. H. Davies for \$2600. She will be run on Fraser river.

The Government calls for tenders for making a wagon road from New Westminster to Burrard's Inlet.

H. M. S. Sulej is at Port Moody, Burrard's Inlet, and Admiral and Mrs. Denman are visiting Governor Seymour at New Westminster.

THE DISTRICT ELECTION.

The election contest for the District resulted yesterday in the return of Dr. Dickson by a majority of six votes over Mr. Cruickshank, and fourteen over Mr. Pidwell. During the early part of the day Mr. Cruickshank had the start, although Messrs. Dickson and Pidwell were very close behind, the figures at 12 o'clock being 15, 12, and 9. Later in the day, however, Dr. Dickson, through the exertions of his friends, who worked most energetically throughout the contest, began to pull ahead, and at half past three o'clock he led Mr. Cruickshank by a majority which he maintained until six o'clock. The closing figures were, Dickson, 37; Cruickshank, 31; Pidwell, 23. A large crowd had collected at the polls towards the termination of the contest, and the announcement of the result was received with much satisfaction. The three candidates then briefly addressed the assemblage in turn. Doctor Dickson thanked the electors for the honor they had done him, and hoped his conduct in the House would be such as to retain their confidence. His political principles were the same as those enunciated by Mr. Cruickshank, and he hoped the supporters of that gentleman would have every reason to be satisfied with his course as their representative.

Mr. Cruickshank said he was very glad to know that, although he was not elected himself, the gentleman who was returned held precisely the same views of politics. He thanked the electors for their support.

After a few words from Mr. Pidwell, the assemblage dispersed.

There is much talk in the Clubs of a coming shew of Peorages, and people who know everything profess to consider six of them as certain. The Marquis of Westminster will, it is said, be rewarded for his immense wealth and staunch Whiggery by a Dukedom; the services of the Premier will be acknowledged by making Lady Palmerston Viscountess Melbourne in her own right, with remainder to her second son, the Right Hon. W. Cowper; and Sir Charles Wood, Secretary of State for India, Mr. Wentworth Beaumont, member for South Northumberland, and owner of vast mining property in that country, Sir Wm. Belknap, a man of great influence in Anglesy and Flintshire, and head of a very ancient family, and Mr. Denison, the Speaker, will all be made peers.

The "least probable name" on the list is that of Sir Charles Wood, who told the electors of Halifax the other day that he should stand again, and who is always included in every list of peers from the intense desire of the public to see him out of office.—Spectator, July 30.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21. Present—The Hon. President, Colonial Secretary, Surveyor General, Treasurer and Attorney General.

POSTAL AFFAIRS. The Hon. Colonial Secretary read the following important message from His Excellency the Governor and moved that it be considered on Friday next, which was agreed to and the Council adjourned until to-morrow at the usual hour.

VANCOUVER ISLAND. VICTORIA, 21st Sept. 1864. To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council; GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to submit the following remarks relative to postal communication between British Columbia, Vancouver Island and the Mother Country, for the consideration of the Legislature and people of this colony.

I have been in personal communication with many distinguished and energetic men of business in England who are deeply interested in the colonies. The present appears to be a most opportune time for re-opening the question, inasmuch as we have a distinguished colonist, Mr. Hugh Oldies, M. P., occupying an influential post at the Admiralty, and who is well known to be thoroughly acquainted with our requirements and favorable to the establishment of a British line of mail steamers to connect these colonies with Panama. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer is believed to be favorable to the undertaking, provided a good case can be shown; and there is a good reason to believe that the Postmaster General will recommend any practicable measure for extending postal communication to this part of Her Majesty's dominions.

A settled form of government having been established in Mexico, and a new establishment of a line of steamers which would now have Acapulco and Mazatlan open to them as profitable places of call.

A weighty reason for again bringing forward this question is to be found in the fact that the present means of communication from Panama along the North Pacific coast is admittedly inadequate to the growing trade. All statistics go to prove this. The increased and increasing production of gold in British Columbia and California, three-fourths of which is exported to England, is a strong reason for the adoption of a British line in the North Pacific.

The progress of these colonies renders it a matter of importance to England, as well as to them that an improvement in the communication for passengers, mails and merchandise should be at once established. A British line from Panama to Vancouver Island would doubtless lead to an extension to China and Japan as being the cheapest and most expeditious route between England and those countries, and confer incalculable benefit on this colony.

Having briefly alluded to some of the reasons which render it expedient to bring this question again before the Legislature, it is desirable that the public of these colonies should at the same time understand some of the disadvantages which are incurred by the present means of communication. It is not a parallel in any of Her Majesty's dominions. For a fortnightly service irregularly and most inconveniently carried out, this colony at present pays \$9,000 per annum, together with a large amount of freight, for the carriage of letters between Victoria and San Francisco. The charge of each single letter between England and Vancouver Island, via Panama, has been largely altered to equal the rate charged by New York, letters from Victoria to Panama being formerly charged double those sent via New York. Each Times newspaper costs 4d postage, thus practically excluding that and other English newspapers from circulation here. A book-post has been established between England and the United States, and the same privilege is afforded to British Columbia or Vancouver Island. The consequence is that the charge for books per post and from either of these colonies is entirely prohibitory. A Colonial Almanac may be sent from Oregon to England for five pence, the latter, but not British Columbia or Vancouver Island cost as many shillings. The evils arising from this anomalous state of the Postal Law practically excluding English books are too numerous and too obvious to require comment.

The San Francisco United States steamers receive no subsidy from their own Government which precludes the possibility of the mails being carried with punctuality or security, or regulated by International Treaty. The time occupied in transit between San Francisco and Victoria is generally seven days, and in one instance lately mails and passengers for Vancouver Island were detained seventeen days at San Francisco, while the steamers under contract to carry the mail to Vancouver Island were employed on other services more profitable to their owners.

In case of any international difficulty with America, these colonies would be immediately cut off from all postal communication with Great Britain. The short stay of steamers arriving at Victoria does not afford sufficient time to reply to letters satisfactorily by return mail, and in the case of British Columbia it is altogether impossible.

The disadvantage which Her Majesty's Naval Forces in the North Pacific must labor under is obvious. The great distance via Cape Horn practically precludes emigration from the Mother Country to these colonies, and without which they can have no sound or satisfactory progress.

At present not less than six different lines of European steamers running to and from the Pacific Ocean, and one from Panama to Vancouver Island, are in service, which might be easily conveyed in fifteen vessels, which now occupies nearly three to twenty-five days.

I now turn to the best and speediest mode of bringing this all important question to a practical issue. It is obviously one which chiefly concerns the best interests of the Mother Country as well as these colonies, and

the interests of British Columbia and Vancouver Island are equally at stake. The amount of subsidy required to enable a British line to compete successfully against the exclusive Navigation Laws of the United States is variously estimated—from £25,000 to £50,000 per annum. But whatever the required amount may be, it seems but equitable that the respective Legislatures of these Colonies should contribute according to their means, and this done, bring the case under the notice of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, who will doubtless advocate a cause which so nearly concerns the settlement and commercial progress of the colonies committed to his charge.

I would wish the honorable the Legislative Council to take this subject into their consideration with a view to the correction of an evil which so seriously retards the progress of Vancouver Island and the neighboring Colony of British Columbia.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient servant, (Signed,) A. E. KENNEDY, Governor.

THE "RANDOM" AFFAIR.

The other side of the Story.

The following is the statement of Samuel Howard, one of the crew of the sloop Random, furnished by him to a person in this city prior to Mr. Duncan's arrival here from Metlakahla. As we have already published the version given by the Indians to Mr. Duncan, we have no hesitation in now presenting the other side of the story, leaving the public to accept it for what it is worth. The narrator and his companions having returned the vessel to her owner, have, no doubt, in anticipation of serious consequences, made for "ports unknown."

STATEMENT OF SAMUEL HOWARD, LATE OF THE SLOOP RANDOM.

We cleared for a trading voyage from New Westminster to Sitka, and had been trading on the voyage until about 20 miles above Metlakahla, when we were boarded by a canoe containing 9 Indians, all armed with muskets, pistols and knives, two having fixed bayonets, and said they were from Mr. Duncan, and had orders to bring us back. The Indians were asked for their warrants, and they produced a letter to the Factor of the Hudson Bay Company, at Fort Simpson. When told that it was not for us, one of the Indians tore off the envelope and gave the letter to the Captain, which he read to the purpose of the letter was that he (the Factor) should assist the Indians in taking the vessel and crew, and if nothing could be proved against them on this trip, it could be on a previous one against Jackson, one of the present crew, but not the Captain.

When the Indians came on board we were two miles above Fort Simpson and 20 miles from Metlakahla. After holding a consultation we thought it best to return back to Metlakahla. When within 4 miles it came on a dead calm. We sent two of the Indians ashore to tell Mr. Duncan if he was a house officer to come on board and examine our papers and cargo as we were anxious to proceed on our voyage, when word was brought back that Mr. Duncan was busy, and had to go to the office. It was not his business to come to us; we were called men, and must come to him. The captain told us (the Indians) that he was as much of a tyke as Mr. Duncan was. At this time there was a breeze springing up and he was going on his voyage, and set sail. A canoe then left for assistance leaving 5 on board, the vessel standing out to sea for some time, the Indians by this time became hostile and showed demonstrations as to our rigging. They then told the captain it was Mr. Duncan's orders to bring us dead or alive (delaie la vie), not to be afraid and not to return without us. The vessel was then being towed astern and leave peacefully. The Indians at this time commenced shooting and fired 4 shots at one of the crew on deck, two of the bullets passing through his coat and vest, when the light commenced in carrying 4 of the Indians being driven into the sea. The other still trying to get a shot at one of our party, was shot, the ball taking effect in the knee and coming out at the hip, when he threw his musket overboard and said mawook chahya. The light being overcast, we then picked up 5 of them out of the water, the other had sunk. We then dressed their wounds and kept them all night, fed them, and gave them a canoe and provisions and sent them ashore.

The murderer of Mr. Briggs has been discovered, though not by the authorities of the police, and turns out to be a Franz Muller, a working gunsmith of Cologne, who emigrated to England nearly two years ago, and has since lived as a journeyman tailor. His motive was to obtain possession of Mr. Briggs' watch, he having lost one in a broil. The clue was given to the police by a cabman, whose attention had been attracted by the description of the hat in the carriage. He had bought the hat for Muller, and the murderer before departing for America, he did on Thursday night, had given the cabman's child the box, which had held the chain purchased from Mr. Death. Other evidence was found at his lodgings, and on Tuesday an inspector of police, with Mr. Death and the cabman, started by the mail steamer for New York, where they expect to arrive four days before the Victoria, the sailing vessel in which Muller had taken his passage.—Spectator.

The greatest mystery prevails about the new Alabama, whereabouts, though report gives full particulars of the vessel. She is said to be an ironclad and a man, and armed with pivot guns that can throw hollow projectiles of 170 pounds, and solid projectiles of 220 pounds. She can steam eighteen knots an hour (some say 20), and will have 172 sailors, picked men, including the old crew, who will reserve their pay till wanted, which will be the 7th day of Napoleon, the 15th of August. It is just probable that this is one of the iron vessels said to have been purchased by Prussia, as it appears they have only got one.—The Age and Sea.

The Duke of Newcastle is fast regaining his lost strength. He now daily takes a walk for several hours.

EUROPEAN.

Spain. The Epoca announces that the tenor of the despatches last received from the Spanish admiral in the Pacific gives ground to hope for a satisfactory settlement of the difference with Peru. According to this journal, Admiral Pinzon is in complete accord with the Government, and his tendencies, as well as those of the representatives of Spain in Chile and at Washington, are most conciliatory.

Madrid, July 27.—A royal decree issued to-day appoints a committee of directors to erect a statue in honor of Christopher Columbus. Senor Mon will proceed to Asturias shortly.

Portugal. LISBON, July 25.—Owing to the scanty harvest in Portugal it is considered probable that within a month certain parts will be open for the free importation of foreign grain. It is officially announced that the next loan required by the Government will be offered to public competition.

Turkey. CONSTANTINOPLE, July 22.—The Porte has closed all the Protestant missionary establishments, and arrested several converts. The Bible and American Missionary Societies have since been requiring the payment of a tax of thirty six piastres. The Protestant movement is said to be greatly spreading among the Mussulmans. The forthcoming Turkish budget will show a small surplus.

Tunis. PARIS, July 26.—Advices received here from Tunis represent the condition of affairs at that place as being very unfavorable. The Khasnadar persists in requiring the payment of a tax of thirty six piastres. The insurgents have broken up their camp. The troops of the Bey are in the neighborhood of Tunis.

MARSEILLES, July 29.—Letters from Tunis state that General Ismail had retreated from Beja on pretext of ill health, leaving his column with 12 cannons blockaded by the insurgent Arabs.

Tunis, July 27.—The Arabs having gathered in their harvest have advanced in force upon Tunis. When they had arrived within two leagues of the capital the army of the Bey surrendered without an engagement. The leader of the insurgents, who had declared the desire of the insurgents to remain faithful to the Bey, their only wish being the dismissal of the ministry and the abolition of the unjust tax.

Poland. A Warsaw letter in the Patrie says: "The stay of the Czar at Kissingen was marked by the issue of numerous skanes, showing his firm intention to completely denationalize Poland. The superior administrative council of the country has been chosen from among the men who have given the most numerous proofs of their severity. For that reason Kozeleff, Solovieff, and General Branschweig and Zabobokoff have been appointed to the office of the inspectors of the provinces, the other in that of Podlisch."

The Baltic Gazette gives the following statistics relating to the late insurrection in Poland, chiefly derived from official sources: During the 16 months of the struggle 30,000 insurgents were killed or severely wounded; 567 were condemned to death by military tribunals, and 85,000 persons less compromised were transported to Siberia. The war contributions levied were six millions of roubles in the kingdom of Poland, three millions in Lithuania, two millions in Volhynia, Podolia, and Kiev. The National Government, on the side, raised the following sums:—Six millions in Poland, three millions in Lithuania, two millions in Polhynia, Podolia, and Kiev, two and a half millions in Galicia and one million in Posenia. The number of Polish who found an asylum abroad is estimated at 10,000.

DEATH OF A VETERAN.—Col. Fielding Brown, O. B., formerly of the 66th Foot, an old Peninsular and Waterloo officer, died on the 22d, at his town residence in the Regent's park, at the advanced age of 80 years. The deceased officer accompanied the 40th regiment to the Peninsula in July, 1808, and was present at the battles of Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, and Buaco, on the retreat, and at the occupation of Badajoz, in May, 1811, and the repulse of the sortie from Fort San Christoval, actions of El Bodon and Aldea de Ponte, siege and storming of Ciudad Rodrigo, action at Carnal, battle of Salamanca, the capture of Madrid, and subsequent retreat therefrom. He also served in the expedition against New Orleans. The gallant officer also had the honor to take part in the campaign of 1815, and commanded his regiment at Waterloo. For his services at the last named battle he was made a companion of the order of the bath in 1815. The late colonel retired from the service in 1837.

The Yelverton case ended on Thursday in the defeat of the lady. The Lord's judgment in appeal was delivered on Thursday, when Lord Westbury gave his opinion for Miss Longworth, and Lords Kingsdown, Wensleydale, and Chelmsford for Major Yelverton. The immediate effect of the decision is only to declare void the marriage affirmed by the Scotch Court; but we imagine it settles the question. The majority of the judges expressed themselves incidentally against the Irish marriages, and should the Ecclesiastical Courts disregard their opinion their judgment would be sure to be reversed in appeal. It is just possible, however, that the case may be re-opened many years hence, when Major Yelverton's death may tempt the next of kin to fight his son's claim to the title of Avonmore. It is stated that Miss Longworth almost immediately after her marriage, and continuing almost impossible for hours; but after all the Lords have rid her of a very bad bargain, and her character, with so many objections in her favor, must remain wholly unaffected by the final result.—Spectator, 30th July.

The Duke of Grey will leave London early in the ensuing week for a tour of inspection of the military fortifications on the western coast.

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, September 27 1864.

NOMINATION FOR THE HOUSE.

Tuesday morning at 10 Naylor, returning officer for Victoria, held the nomination desirous of filling the vacant resignation of Mr. E. H. Jackson being opened in the House. Mr. A. T. Elliott proposed Cruickshank as a suitable person to fill the vacant seat. The electors in parliament known him ever since he came and although he differed from his political friends he expected to find a man whose name was as well known as his own.

Mr. A. F. Main seconded of Mr. Cruickshank, believing faithfully support the interest in the House. Mr. Robert Anderson proposed T. Pidwell as a fit and proper person to fill the vacant seat. The gentleman who was well known to the electors.

Mr. Charles Gowan seconded Mr. Pidwell and was well known to them. Gowan had supported Mr. last election, but that gentle his colors and forsaken the vote for him again. Mr. Pidwell the country wanted; he had roads and he would fulfill his duty. (Mr. Gowan) was probably to see the money spent in the carried out to enrich strangers.

Mr. John Copland proposed as a candidate. He those who confound private and public business, and the other two gentlemen, by in the House was qualified too little of that amongst the want of it. A glance at the colony would show that we are not doing well, but they could not know enough to fore-beggot to propose Dr. Dickson. A voice—Woke! (laugh) Mr. Copland—There's no We don't understand the are many things to be un- Mr. Dickson, from his success, in well fitted to assist the House. His opinions and fixed, and what he said to.

Mr. Thorne—How are the right men? (laugh) analyzed him? (laughter). Mr. Copland—Well, will (laughter). Mr. Thorne—We'd like himself, and will have a month in the House. Mr. Copland—Elliott trot a few minutes.

Mr. John J. Cochrane seconded Mr. Copland, although friends Dickson and Cruickshank the young man be- "How happy could I were 'tother dear (laughter). He would let for himself. No other candidate but Mr. Cruickshank add explanation to make the result would have been unexpressed period of the most important in Parliament. On that in his resignation, in order sentative in the House. tween himself and Mr. so trifling that he felt the stitutes would not suit hands. Another point he altho' almost 4000 statement that he had by money to withdraw from who knew him it was not but he would simply offer had ever been of he would have sprung it, merited. Mr. Cochrane to say that he had on educated his views on education, he was in favor can schools and of the b We had excellent mode United States and Can was not opposed to der besides; let us have a people will support, a school should be free from the bible in the school less objection, if it is encouraged, believing that the Colonies was an impossibility to occupy the at prominently. While nothing that would into make rights and privi-