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EN ROUTE FOR THE MINES
During the month of March we shall be losing a great portion of our floating population who will take wing for the mines early in this season to be in readiness for work when the state of the creeks will admit of it. Much is expected from the improvements in the machinery and appliances for working the mines. Much also may be expected from the formation of companies for carrying on mining operations, who will be able to effect far more in the limited season during which work can be comfortably carried on in the northern mining districts. Already are the rival routes commencing to boast of their different advantages, which are really but routes are compared with the measure facilities that were offered for travellers two years ago. Now, from the improvements that have been made along the whole route, the trip to Williams Creek can be undertaken as a pleasure trip. The houses along the road have been improved even since last year, and any one who can walk or ride can get up to Cariboo this year with the greatest ease. But it is not every one who can get employment when he gets there. As the hardy miner, but at present he who cannot manage the pick and shovel with ease and comfort to himself had better not undertake the journey to the mines. There is of course some work for men who are not practical miners, but as a rule we cannot conceive that any place can be a worse school for these young men, who are to be found in Victoria as well as in most other corners of the earth, who fancy that their heads can support them without the assistance of their hands, whenever they may be, and that, without the exercise of energy or application. The mines are a hard trial to such men, and the chances are that going up to Cariboo with small means, all who cannot raise their hands, and who are not ready with a hearty good-will to turn to any employment that offers either on the road or at the mines, will signally fail in their achievements this year, as some have every year since the first discovery of gold on the Fraser.

Far better would it be for those who have not either a claim to go to or a prospect of regular work in claims belonging to other persons, or a thorough dependence upon their own strength of arm and indomitable will and perseverance, to settle down at some regular employment for the summer in the agricultural or mineral districts of this Colony, although at a moderate rate of remuneration, until they become a little accustomed to roughing it, and so more fitted to undergo the hard labor of the diggings. We would not for one moment discourage the hardy miners from trying the upper country since more, indeed, the people seem very much better for this class of men this year than they have been heretofore, and those who can stand the season's labor will in all probability have just as regular work as during the last season, with pay as high and perhaps somewhat steadier, whilst provisions will in all probability be considerably lower. If the miner were able to save a dollar a day during the whole summer season in provisions, it would make a comfortable addition to his savings. The journey up and down too will cost less than heretofore, as the roads are improved the traveller, whether on horse or foot, will make better time, and with an additional number of houses and consequent competition added to the reduction in the cost of provisions, meals at roadside houses must become cheaper. It does not seem, however, to be anticipated that there will be the slightest decrease in the price of labor. Until the mining population becomes very much larger there is not

the slightest prospect of its being materially reduced, nor is it by any means desirable that it should. It is much better for the trader and the general prosperity of the colony that the working men should have remunerative wages, they will do far more towards distributing and circulating the gold than will the large mining capitalists.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Members present, the Hon. Attorney General, P. O'Reilly, H. M. Ball, E. H. Sanders, J. A. R. Homer, H. Holbrook, and J. Orr. The Hon. H. Nind was sworn in by Judge Reggie and took his seat.

The Hon. Mr. Orr introduced a petition from merchants and others in the interior, praying for the establishment of a steamer line to the coast.

The Hon. J. Orr moved, seconded by Hon. H. Holbrook, That the Mining Bill be recommitted. Hon. P. O'Reilly moved, seconded by Hon. H. M. Ball, That the Mining Bill be read a third time. After considerable discussion the amendment was carried on the following division, by the Attorney General voting in the affirmative: Yes, Hon. H. M. Ball, P. O'Reilly, E. H. Sanders, and H. P. Cresser; Nays, Hon. H. Nind, J. A. R. Homer, H. Holbrook, and J. Orr.

The House went into Committee of the Whole upon the subject of establishing a Light Ship at the mouth of the Fraser River. The Hon. H. M. Ball in the Chair, when Hon. J. A. R. Homer moved, seconded by Hon. H. Holbrook, That the Council recommend His Excellency the Governor to appropriate the sum of \$2000 to establish a Light Ship at the mouth of the Fraser River. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Hon. H. M. Ball introduced a Bill for the regulation of Trade Licenses, which was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

The Committee on Steam Tractors, Engines reported progress. They examined Mr. Trutch respecting the proposed scheme. He informed the Committee that the company in London had not sent drawings, but he was enabled to state that each engine would weigh from 7 to 10 tons, with a 20-horse boiler, and with a load of 20 tons would make 8 miles an hour while lights it would make 8 miles, being capable of making the shortest curves and ascending the steepest grades in the Colony. He stated that they were prepared to import 12 of the Engines, placing 2 on the Yale route, 2 on the Douglas route, and the balance about the Junction. He also informed the Committee that after being furnished with plans and a thorough description of the proposed scheme, the company had resumed their report on Tuesday.

Hon. J. A. R. Homer moved, seconded by Hon. H. Holbrook, That a resolution be passed in certain parts of the Colony.

Members present—Hon. Attorney General, Collector of Customs, J. A. R. Homer, H. Holbrook, and J. Orr. A message was received from His Excellency the Governor, signifying his approval of the bill passed by the House. The House adjourned until Monday at 3 o'clock.

FROM METLAKANTLA

The missionary schooner *Carolina*, Capt. Patterson, arrived on Saturday from the missionary settlement at Metlakantla, which place she left on the 9th inst., calling at Fort Rupert on the 19th inst. The only spoken was the alope Kingfisher, which was met in Milbank sound on the 12th inst. A schooner was seen on the same day, bound north. The *Carolina* brought 20 passengers, the Rev. Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Mr. Cook, Messrs. Douglas, Walter, and Ben. Spain, of the schooner *Rose Newman*, the brings a freight full cargo, consisting of fish oil, furs, Indian food, cypress planks, &c., prepared by Indians at the settlement.

Mr. Cunningham has favored us with the following interesting description of the state of affairs at the settlement.

Mr. Duncan was in good health when the schooner left, and everything going on prosperously.

After the arrival of the *Carolina*, on her last trip from Victoria, a meeting was held on the vessel. It was held at night, and the provisions for the winter were discussed. A dividend was declared by Mr. Duncan of five per cent upon each share. This somewhat puzzled the Indians, who imagined when the money was given to them that they were paying with their interest in the vessel. As soon as the matter was satisfactorily explained to them they were given the appropriate name of the *Metlak* or *Metlak*, signifying that she did all the work and they reaped the profit.

Mr. Duncan is endeavoring by degrees to vest the entire ownership of the vessel and other articles in the hands of the natives, who have derived from his own share have been devoted to the interests of the natives.

On New Year's day, after a devotional meeting, there was a business meeting attended by the whole settlement, when Mr. Duncan and Mr. Cunningham announced the expenditure of the last year's taxes, and read the village rates for the present year. The rates were also furnished of the proposed expenditure for the current year, which met with general approval. The estimates included the cost of two new market-houses, which are to be used as lodging-houses for night-laboring tribes when visiting the settlement. Also money for erecting a school for a park and play grounds, and for making new roads. Immediately after the meeting the tax of \$2.50 (or a blanket) for adults, and \$1.50 (or one shirt) for boys was paid. Some elderly old men, who would hardly walk, came to the meeting with their blankets anxious to become good citizens, but were exempted from the levy. A number of new citizens were enrolled.

Later the same day the village had to mourn the loss of an influential old chief, and consistent Christian, named Semeno Keethlan, who died after a few days' illness of erysipelas. On the following day a funeral ceremony took place, attended by all the people of the village, numbering between 500 and 600, who were all in mourning, as far as crape or black material could be procured. The remains were brought to the church and an exequial service, which the morning prayer followed, the corpse was carried to the burial island, where the burial service was read and listened to with the most profound attention. After the service was concluded, a portion of the constables fired a volley over the grave, which was responded to by another volley from the constables on duty on shore, and the firing of cannon.

Mr. Duncan has been working hard to ascertain what his people's inclinations and abilities are, so as to class their occupations, and lay in a good measure. He has now a number at work making shingles, building a new mission house, road-making, huts, sawyers, &c. He has also taught them to make cloths for themselves, which are much prized.

Those who break the laws are tried for offence, and if found guilty are sentenced to labor on public works.

RED RIVER NEWS.

We have dates from the Red River Settlements to December 17th.

The *Nor' Wester* complains that the settlement is being completely over-run with Sioux Indians, who to the number of 800 or 1,000 have come across the boundary to escape from the Americans or "Long-knives" as they term them. Governors Dallas and McTavish have been trying to induce them to remove by offers of provisions, &c., but without success. The *Nor' Wester*, from the ferocious and treacherous character of the Sioux, is fearful of an outbreak by them.

The following extract from the journal of a settler, published in the *Nor' Wester*, gives some account of the mines on the headwaters of Bow river, which falls into the

Montana—on his side, and left all our baggage there to burying it under the ground. When we left Colville, on the 16th September we of course came straight in where we had left our carts and baggage, but were astonished to find all our stuff—clothing, provisions, ammunition, &c.—dogged up and carried off, some of our carts too. Observing the direction of the plundering party, we followed them and came up to them after two days' hard travel. They were Americans—22 in number, going to the gold mines at the head waters of the Bow River.

We had no trouble in getting our property, all but some provisions and shoes which had already been used up. Having returned and got things ready, we started for home, taking the same course which we had followed going.

We arrived here on the 23rd November—having been about five months and six days away. When we left the Rocky Mountains we had 30 horses, but we reached here with only 15—the rest having "snooked up" by the way. I spoke of 22 miners. Let me say a little about them. The miner who first discovered the Fraser River and Cariboo diggings came over the mountains to this side last spring, and prospected along the Bow River. He had five men with him. They were very successful—found rich diggings which yielded them \$25 each per day. Knowing that there was any amount of gold to be had, he determined to go down to Fort Benton, and get up a party for his mines. He accordingly got one John Munro to guide him to the mines, and he there made up a party of 21 men whom he sent back to the Bow River mines under the same guide. These were the 22 men who helped themselves to our supplies.

John Munro is now, and for a long time back, has been living with the Blackfeet; but he had originally come out as apprentice clerk in the Hudson Bay company. He told me that he had himself seen the miners taking out \$5 worth of gold each per man per day, at the Bow River mines, and that the head miner whom he had guided to Fort Benton, said that these mines were richer than any on the west side of the mountains, as another year would show. Bow River, let me tell you falls into the South Branch.

A friend says that, from eight bushels of wheat, he has realized four hundredweight of flour, all but 6 lbs, and had the pollard grain.

We have it of good authority that some of the wheat grown last season in this settlement weighed 68 lbs. per bushel; 68 lbs. is not at all uncommon. Think of this, all ye who say that Rupert's Land is unfit for civilized people.

LIQUOR LICENSES.

Mr. DeCosmos said that some time ago he had given notice of a motion to reduce the liquor licenses, especially the retail licenses, in this city. The hon. Speaker had then said that the matter would come up in committee on Ways and Means, and he would therefore now bring the matter before the committee.

The Speaker said the motion would be brought up in committee at a subsequent meeting.

The committee rose and reported the voting of the supplies for the year 1864.

Dr. Trimble said a great deal of dissatisfaction was felt by members of the House in regard to the mode in which business was conducted in the Legislative Council. The bills which were sent up from the House of Assembly appeared to be systematically neglected, and many were disposed to blame His Excellency for the delay. He believed that the matter should be investigated, if the blame laid on the right shoulders. He

threw open to the public the door of the House, and he would push it through with the greatest despatch, and send it to the Lower House.

On Monday Mr. Franklin's Annexation motion will come up.

In reply to a question about the Small Debts Bill, Mr. Young said the Council wished to bring in a bill and would push it through with the greatest despatch, and send it to the Lower House.

Mr. DeCosmos said he could illuminate the hon. Speaker on that point. (Laughter.) He (Mr. DeCosmos) at one time felt a great deal of anxiety to learn what was going on in this "stone communion" chamber, and had applied for admittance, but had been politely refused.

Mr. Young said that for the last two months the Council had been talking of removing to the large open room in the main building, and he believed the only hindrance was that they had no chairs.

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