

Tuesday, February 14, 1865.

THE LAST ARTIFICE.

As the election approaches the Free Port party, like the losing gambler, grow more desperate. At first, when the subject was mooted in the Assembly, they were sanguine, and hailed the contest as an opportunity to show to the colony at large that their sentiments were in the ascendancy. Gradually, however, as public feeling found vent, they appeared less confident—they viewed the issue with all the gravity of men who deemed they had their all at stake. In this serious situation, they looked around for a man whose personal influence they fondly hoped would counteract the disadvantages that surrounded a bad cause, and Mr. Gilbert Malcolm Sproat was at once selected. Here we acknowledge they showed wisdom; for Mr. Sproat was the only man of their party who could hope to make anything like headway against those who maintained the more enlightened views of "Union and a Tariff." But there was a difficulty—an insuperable one—in the way: Mr. Sproat was going home. He could not, at the outside, devote more than a month's time to legislation; and the mere knowledge that he was about to leave the colony would prevent every honest and intelligent man from throwing away his vote on such a candidate. What was to be done? Mr. Sproat must acknowledge to the public that he intended to leave the colony in five or six weeks. An expedient was hit upon. The gentleman was packed off to Alberni, so that the disagreeable question might not require a response. The contest went on, the free port party relying on the very unsubstantial aid of a name. The intelligent portion of the population were, however, not to be hoodwinked, although every description of falsehood and subterfuge was promulgated to create the impression that Mr. Sproat was hourly expected back. Mr. Sproat was not expected back, and was known to be going home. He was, moreover, never intended to be elected,—and here, we think, Mr. Sproat is deserving the censure of the entire community. He knew, before he left for Alberni, that his name was merely to be used to get Mr. Young into the House. The name has been used, but there are few deceived by the ruse—so few, that bribery and the grossest corruption have been resorted to. The object was and is to get as many votes as possible for Sproat out of the Union and Tariff party, and then to leave Young to fight the remainder. The idea of opposing Mr. DeCosmos having been given up, all the energies of the free port party are thrown against Mr. McClure. Every person who can be purchased or coerced into splitting his vote, has been approached—every man whose morality is weak, or whose debts are pressing, has been drawn into the disgraceful net, and by this legitimate means—this honorable method of eliciting public sentiment—the free port champions hope to carry the election. That some union and tariff voters have been bought, and that others have been coerced is true enough; but the great bulk are too sound, too sincere, and too high principled to endanger the cause by splitting up the ticket. All the wiles, all the bribery, and all the intimidations of unscrupulous men have been resorted to in vain. Foreign gold will never buy British principle. It may succeed with a few recreants, or with those who, like the apothecary in Romeo and Juliet, allow their poverty but not their will to consent; but the union and tariff party have few such waifs, and the result of to-day's election will show that the great majority of the voters of Victoria are unpurchasable and fearless in the exercise of the franchise. It will show that the false pretence of running Mr. Sproat to catch votes for Mr. Young is properly appreciated—that a number of foreign merchants have ceased to dictate the policy of the country—and that henceforward public opinion and it alone will rule.

**THE QUEEN'S NEW CAMEOS.**—The Queen has commissioned Signor Saulini, of Rome, to execute a number of cameos in shell, representing the busts of Her Majesty and the late Prince Albert. Some of these beautiful works, exquisite in conception and in art, have arrived in London, where they will be set in gold, and presented, as others have been, either to members of the royal family or to distinguished ladies, personal friends of the Queen. One not uncommonly meets with German ladies who wear on their left shoulder decorations presented by their sovereign, and perhaps Her Majesty in this touching way has instituted an order to perpetuate the memory of one in every manner so worthy of her deep affection. The likenesses of Prince Albert is inside, that of the Queen outside, and both are admirable specimens of the artistic skill of Saulini. Already by command of Her Majesty six cameos have been cut in pietra dura (onyx), four in shell, and five more in shell have yet to be completed. Those in pietra dura require long and patient labor, each occupying from three to four months in the completion.

**THE MAGNESIUM LIGHT.**—A singular circumstance was communicated to the French Photographic Society at its last sitting by M. Pined. The magnesium light is so powerful, that when placed at a short distance from a sensitive surface it will melt its surface. An experiment was made in this way, and produced a bubble at the sitting. Photographers should be particularly well adapted to this treatment.

AMERICAN VIEW OF KOOTENAY.

The following article from the Portland Oregonian shows the American view of the Kootenay mines, and the attempts which will be made to induce and retain the traffic with these rich gold fields to flow through American territory. The most energetic efforts of the united colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia will be necessary to obtain our full share of the golden harvests which will be reaped from the Kootenay country.

NEW NORTHERN GOLD FIELDS.

There is no doubt that the great rush of prospectors the present spring will be towards the new mines discovered on the waters of the Columbia river last year. A gentleman just from California says the crowd who are waiting there to move, as soon as the spring opens, all name Kootenay as their destination, and there seems no doubt that extensive mines have been struck lately outside of the district known as the original Kootenay region. The whole mountain region to the north abounds in very rich and extensive gold mines, extending far into British Columbia. A person who has just come down from there speaks of an extensive mining district some 170 miles north of the old Kootenay district, where diggings are being worked equal in richness to the best known in Cariboo. These lie near the main Columbia, above Colville, and it is said a piece of gold weighing as much as six hundred dollars has been taken out, with many of smaller value, and that one man lately brought down forty pounds of gold taken from there. In view of the fact that so many are intending to visit that region in the spring, we will give some account of the present route and the facilities preparing to assist future travel. The road at present most traveled starts from Walla Walla, leaves Colville to the left, and probably is three hundred and fifty miles in reaching the Kootenay mines. The whole route is over a rolling country, well watered, abounding in good grasses, and with sufficient timber, and not through mountains at all. This route is long and tedious by land travel, but is far preferable to any other, although our neighbors of British Columbia would have the world believe that the route lies through Fraser river, via Cariboo, and over the terrible mountain ranges that separate the northern coast from the great inland basin to the east. All the facilities are also offered by this route that can be expected, as the people of Walla Walla and vicinity have always on hand thousands of Cayuses, and a traveler can procure an outfit at any of the towns on the Columbia with reliable certainty. Capt. Len White, well known on the Oregon rivers as a most energetic steamboat man, has gone to Colville already, for the purpose of placing a good boat on the Colambir river above that point; and in this connection we will say a word about the navigation of the Columbia. Every one knows that at present we have steamboat and railroad connection all the year to Wallula and Umatilla, and it is possible to run still above Wallula some forty-five miles to White Bluffs, with a slight improvement of the river, at all seasons of the year. From White Bluffs there is a good wagon route over a rolling country well grassed and watered, direct to Colville in 150 miles, while the river bends far to the North and traverses 300 miles between the two places. This distance and the existence of several rapids and falls in the river will make it unprofitable ever to undertake its navigation, but above Colville it can be navigated for two hundred and fifty miles, without a break. The Columbia there forms a succession of great lakes, offering every advantage to be made available to enterprise, and become a great route of travel. Capt. White is intending to build a steamer at Colville, to run on this unbroken water course, and it is hoped that by July, he will be running; and connecting with the road from White Bluffs, he will be able to transport prospecting parties far up the Columbia, to the very vicinity of the mines lately discovered. These mines are supposed to be on the Columbia, about where a line from Kootenay to Cariboo would strike that river, two hundred and fifty miles south east of Cariboo and one hundred and seventy miles from Kootenay.

Oregon is interested in these routes of travel not less than are the travelers themselves. The road all the way to Colville lies through our own territory. The mines offer for the present at least a profitable market for our surplus products, and travel benefits any country in many ways incidentally. Before closing this subject, we must say that mining is not the only inducement offered on the upper Columbia. The climate is said to be beautiful, and those desirous of permanent settlement can find a great deal of valuable unoccupied ground in the Colville valley, which is fifty miles long and ranging from a half mile to two miles wide. Already the settlers of Colville, principally composed of French and half breeds, have begun to find a market, and a profitable one, too, for their surplus of vegetables, wheat, and oats produced, and the promise for another year surpasses the profits for the last. There are other valleys besides Colville to be settled, and the future of the Upper Columbia will no doubt figure largely in the history of the Pacific coast.

**THE FLORENTINE COVENTS.**—The secularization of the Florentine conventual establishments, should the Parliament consent to that measure, will alone bring in a goodly sum to the State—the revenues of the Carmelite nuns of St. Theresa, 397,000; of the brotherhood of the Holy Annunciation, 618,000; of the barefooted Carmelite nuns of St. Mary Magdalen, 661,000; of the Dominicans of the Angiolini, 695,000; of the Augustines of the Holy Spirit, 478,000; of the brotherhood of the Holy Cross, 492,000; of the Scolopians of St. John the Less, 580,000; of the long-mantled Sisters of St. Mary, 624,000; of the Montalvans of Boponi, 850,000; of the Dominicans of the new Order of St. Mary, 431,000; of the Order of Malta, now the Hospitaliers of St. John, 1,200,000; or, in all, 6,936,000.

It is stated as a new discovery that wonderful effects may be obtained by watering fruit trees and vegetables with a solution of sulphate of iron. Under this system beans will grow to nearly double the size, and will acquire a much more savory taste. The preparation is particularly well adapted to this treatment.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster yesterday at half past 2 p.m., with 40 passengers, \$10,000 in gold and a Cariboo letter express. Capt. Mount reports the river clear, only a very little floating ice being met with; the water is extremely low. The steamer Hope started up the river for Harrison mouth on Tuesday morning to connect with the Henrietta. The Reliance had not come down.

CARIBOO.

[From the N. P. Times.]  
Letters received in town by the Express which arrived on Monday morning, state that much anxiety was felt at the Mouth of Quesnel, on account of a rumored raid by the Chilcooten Indians. Other letters, however, from Mr. Cox state that there was no ground for any apprehension on this score. Mr. Cox had started for Kootenay, and would consequently miss the steamer appointed to leave for that District.

From a private letter from Cariboo dated Jan. 19th, we have been permitted to extract the following items:  
"The Cariboo claim filled up about three weeks since, and work will not be resumed till the spring. The Caladonia is now taking out from 50 to 100 ounces per day. Christmas passed very quietly. There was the usual number of foot-races, balls, &c."  
From other sources we learn that the neighborhood of Lillooet is good as far as Alexandria, except some drifting near the 93 mile house. Stock reports are bad, and the Thompson River, but doing well on the Fraser above Big Bar. Snow at 70 mile house about 12 inches; on Pavilion Mountain about 15.

Mr. Jones arrived in this city on Tuesday, having left Williams Creek on the 16th ult. The weather on the coast was delightful, with 15 inches of snow on the ground. The markets were well supplied, and prices had undergone little change. There was a good supply of excellent trout from Jack-o'-Clubs Lake, some of these fish weighing as much as 15 lbs. apiece. The following claims are reported at work: New York, Watson, Caladonia, Grizzly Moffat, Never-sweat, Prince of Wales, (sinking a new shaft), Elliott, (prospecting), Adams. Work had been resumed in the Bed-rock Flume.

A grand ball came off on the 8th on Lowhee Creek, which was well attended. Quite a number were there from Williams Creek. The deepest snow on the coast was reported at work: New York, Watson, Caladonia, Grizzly Moffat, Never-sweat, Prince of Wales, (sinking a new shaft), Elliott, (prospecting), Adams. Work had been resumed in the Bed-rock Flume.

From a private letter we learn the following:—The Watson washed out in two hours 14 ounces. The High-low Jack is taking out from 60 to 80 ounces per day. The Caladonia has got a "prospect" of \$4 to the pan! They were preparing to "wash up" in the Ayershire Lass, on Lightning, when good results were expected. A dispute about the right to water, between the Grizzly and the Caladonia, was tried before Commissioner Cox, and resulted in favor of the former. The Caladonia's claims, however, are very low, and would be able to command a full supply of water.

We have private letters to the 19th, stating that the snow had fallen to a depth of 2 feet, and that 15 claims were at work.

NEW WESTMINSTER ITEMS.

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE TELEGRAPH LINE.**—The party engaged in making the poles for the telegraph line, between New Westminster and Mud Bay, are now at work on the opposite side of the river, having advanced nearly as far as Brown's clearing. The poles are cut and laid the whole way through, and the wire arrives, will be put up. At latest accounts the wire had been brought some distance beyond Whatcom. It is probable that the cable will be laid across the river as high up as Brown's clearing, in order to avoid the anchorage. Another month will, we trust, complete the line to this city.

**ON THE WAY.**—A large sum is on the way down from the Cariboo branch of the Bank of British Columbia, on the occasion of his leaving the city, signed by the Honorable Colonial Secretary, Chief Justice, Attorney General, Treasurer, and other members of the Legislative Council, the Ven. Archbishop Wright, and all the principal inhabitants of New Westminster. The address and signature in full are published in the local papers.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

This body has held several meetings of late, at which the Gold Export bill, the Decimal Currency bill, Trustees' Relief bill, Gold Laws Amendment Act, and Bankruptcy bill, were under discussion.

GOLD EXPORT BILL.

This bill was carried through committee and its third reading fixed for Monday next. One of the clauses provides for setting apart a portion of land two miles in width extending along the boundary line, upon which any person found with gold in his possession, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation, would be guilty of an intention to smuggle. And also that no person should have a right to squat or reside upon said land without permission from the Governor.

non-opponent seemed to forget that although he might be paid for 25, yet in paying money out of the colony he would be compelled to lose fifteen cents on every one of them.

THE KOOTENAY TRAIL.

The British Columbian Gazette of Saturday last publishes the following official report of explorations for a new route to Kootenay:

NEW WESTMINSTER, 21st January, 1865.  
SIR—I have the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, my arrival at New Westminster on 20th inst.

I arrived at the mouth of North Fork of Kettle river, which puts in at the Grand Prairie, on the 16th ult., but in consequence of the thick brush and deep snow I did not attempt to explore that stream, but travelled on to Stasipostan Lake, according to the instructions given to me. Here I found a canoe and proceeded up the lake to the fishery, making notes, &c., of the gaps or low water, on the eastern side of the lake. I found the lake terminate at the foot of very high and abrupt mountains, and its tributary continues northward for about 5 miles through canons. The lake is bounded on the west and east sides by a high range of mountains, and on the north by McDonald's Mountains. Finding no pass by which I could get through to the Columbia, I had to return, the weather the time being extremely cold and stormy, accompanied by deep snow.

Feeling not satisfied with the information possessed by me, I travelled into Colville for the purpose of having an interview with Mr. McDonald regarding the route in question.

I arrived at Fort Colville on the 22nd ultimo. The following day Mr. McDonald sent for the Chief and one of the oldest Indians, who knew the country well. They made a sketch on the floor, in one of the rooms in the Fort, of the course of Boundary Creek and Columbia river, at the foot of Arrow Lake.

The following is Mr. McDonald's interpretation of the Indian's description: "The route follows up Boundary Creek about 8 or 9 miles, then stretches over to the North Fork of Kettle River called Nachurnum; on leaving the North Fork head to the back of the largest mountain in the neighborhood, which mountain heads the rocky cliffs of Lake Nachurnum; thence across a sator low divide to the head of a small stream; continue down the said stream to the Columbia River, at a point about 15 miles above the mouth of Kootenay River. The above mentioned route passes through a beautiful country, with plenty of grass and water for camping purposes."

My opinion of the above Indian statement is highly favorable and I have but little doubt that a trail may be carried through at little cost; but on the account of the extreme severity of the weather, I regret to state that it is now quite impracticable to explore the route in question, on account of the softness of the snow.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

J. JENKINS.

To the Hon. A. N. Birch, Colonial Secretary.

MOVEMENT OF GOLD.

The imports of gold in the ten months ending September 30 this year amounted to £13,847,154, against £16,272,906, in the corresponding period of 1863 and £16,164,465 in the corresponding period of 1862. The great decline in the delivery of gold this year has occurred in the case of Australia, which only sent us to October 30 £2,563,388, against £5,986,712 in the corresponding ten months of 1863, and £5,201,831 in the corresponding ten months of 1862. The receipts of gold from the United States also declined to £5,551,854 to October 31 this year, against £6,141,063 in 1863, and £7,893,014 in 1862 (corresponding periods). On the other hand the receipts of gold from Mexico, South America (except Brazil), and the West Indies, amounted to October 31 this year to £4,600,874, against £3,374,677 in 1863, and £1,318,398 in 1862 (corresponding periods). The total exports of gold to October 31 this year amounted to £10,438,672, against £12,399,078 in 1863, and £12,208,069 in 1862 (corresponding periods). To Russia we have exported no gold this year; while in the corresponding period of 1863 we exported £2,707,857 in that direction. France has taken gold from us to the 31st of October this year to the extent of £5,474,594, as compared with £2,769,547 in 1863, and £4,103,689 in 1862 (corresponding periods). To Spain the exports of gold to the 31st of October this year were £1,385,791, as compared with £1,005,069 in 1863, and £1,153,131 in 1862 (corresponding periods). In the first six months of this year gold only went to Turkey to the extent of £414, although in the corresponding period of 1862 £1,027,629 went in that direction. To Egypt the exports of gold to the 31st of October this year are set down at £1,681,846, while they amounted to £2,067,723 in 1863, and £1,206,402 in 1862 (corresponding periods).—Times.

**JOHN MITCHELL AGAIN.**—In the police court at Richmond, on the 22d ult., the Hon. S. Foote, member of the House of Congress from Tennessee, and Mr. John Mitchell, were charged in a warrant sworn out upon them by William H. Fowle, with being about to break the peace of the commonwealth by engaging in a duel with deadly weapons; and the Hon. William G. Swan, member of the House from Tennessee, was charged with being the bearer of a challenge from Mitchell to Foote to fight a duel with deadly weapons contrary to the laws of the commonwealth. All the parties were bound over in heavy bail to keep the peace for twelve months.—Richmond Enquirer, Nov. 28.

**USEFUL HINTS.**—To prevent the water in cisterns from freezing, put a lump of salt—the common agricultural salt will do—in the cistern once a week. A small quantity put in the closet trap the last thing at night will prevent much trouble and expense. Water freezes at 32 degrees, but salt and water will not freeze till the air is 25 degrees colder. If the cistern should be frozen, it is quite sufficient to put salt therein.

Important from Kootenay!

New Creeks Discovered

SCARCITY OF PROVISIONS.

From the North Pacific Times.

Early on Monday morning, Mr. Allison, of Osoyoos Lake, arrived in a canoe from Yale, bringing dispatches from Kootenay. Mr. Allison was ten days coming from Osoyoos Lake to this city. He reports much snow on the road as far as Hope; from that point the road was comparatively clear. The cattle in the valley of the Similkameen were in good condition, with the exception of a few which were brought in from American Territory and were very poor on their arrival. The following important news from Kootenay we extract from letters received by Mr. Haynes, from Mr. Young, Constable of the Kootenay District, to whose courtesy we are indebted.

"Although the weather has been at times very severe, a great deal of mining has been done in the past month, and some companies are washing yet. Very encouraging prospects have been obtained in Gold Hill Tunnel, now up wards of 200 feet; in the hill, and good prospects on other parts of the hill. This hill is now all taken up for more than a mile above town, and several companies are commencing fresh tunnels.

"A great excitement is at present raging in this camp, relative to reported fresh gold discoveries on several creeks emptying into the Columbia River. Numbers of men have been leaving town every day for the last week. No less than 300 men are now out in that direction.

Yesterday, I recorded twelve claims on a creek, called by the discoverers Canon Creek, and described by them as a large creek, emptying into the Columbia river, on the other side, about thirty miles below Spellman-chen, and about 200 miles from this place. Siwash McDonald, the prospector, and a party, are on a creek some miles below this, and are reported to have found diggings. The poorest horses fit to travel are selling here at present from \$100 to \$150 each. There are not more than 300 men remaining in this camp.

Provisions are already becoming very scarce. Flour is now selling at \$65 per cwt., and very little remaining in the place. It is to be feared there will be a great scarcity of provisions here in the spring, before fresh supplies can be brought in. Owing to the severity of the weather in the early part of the month, many of the packers who were on their way to this place with large quantities of goods, alarmed by a heavy snow storm stored their goods at Pen d'Oreilles and other places on the road, and returned with their teams. Those who came through had a hard trip. One who arrived here a few days since, out of forty loaded animals, only succeeded in eight packs. The weather has moderated lately, and efforts are being made to bring up some portion of the goods stored below, which are already much needed here. Three or four trains are expected in yet."

LETTER FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.

We would recommend every elector to read the following letter. Unless we are united to British Columbia, we may expect to see the rush of immigration which is sure to flow into that colony, carried past our doors by a direct line of steamers to New Westminster, and two-thirds of all our trade swept along with it. This is bound to come unless we obtain Union.

NEW WESTMINSTER, 8th Feb, 1865.

To the Editor of the British Colonist.—SIR—A few items at this season of the year from British Columbia may be of some interest to your readers, especially the mining class wintering in your city.

It seems that the Governor of British Columbia is causing a revolution with commercial circles on your Island. His opening speech on the 12th of January to the Legislative Council must have been the cause of this sudden change in your commercial and financial arrangements. But dread not, Governor Seymour does not wish to interfere with your Island policy. His policy is to carry out the great work set before him in this colony—direct steam communication with San Francisco and Panama, direct transportation of goods, telegraphic communication with all quarters of the globe, &c. It will be useless to enumerate here his entire scheme however, as most of your readers have already carefully read over his opening speech.

The telegraph line is out through to this city and only wants the wire to complete the living spark. The wire is up to within four miles of the boundary, and it is expected to reach here by the first of March. A line to Cariboo and Kootenay is under consideration, and I have no doubt but the work will go on immediately.

I hear you are complaining of hard times, but why complain? British Columbia still furnishes hardy miners to her shores and to her mines of wealth, which extend from the forty-ninth parallel to sixty, north. Cariboo alone, this week, sends down to the assay office here a ton weight of gold. It will take years to prospect the immense wealth of this one creek (Williams), and again there is Kootenay, and the discovery of new creeks near the great bend of the Columbia, or the gold-encampment. Miners are hurrying from all directions to these new mines. The prospects for these creeks far exceed anything in Cariboo; and the most part of the creeks are already started off; and it is hard to say how many thousands of men will be there this summer. One thing should not be forgotten, that is an early supply of provisions to the diggings.

The diggings on the Lower Fraser this winter, through the extreme low water, given a great chance to the advantage that here, therefore, could not be worked to advantage. The miners from Yale upwards are doing well. Some, I have no doubt, will clear from two to three thousand dollars in about six weeks at the present rate of washing. There is no less I should say than two hundred miners from Yale to Lytton, and plenty of room for a few thousand more. Mining on the Lower Fraser to men with little cash would, I consider, be far better than Cariboo. I know of no one this season who have made not less than five dollars per day on the bars and b-nches of the river. A good many are also mining on the bars between Yale and Hope, and making from three to five dollars per day.

The steamer Hope is making regular trips to Harrison and Dugan, and connecting with the Yale craft at Harrison mouth. The beautiful steamer Reliance is still at anchor above Jeffrey bay, few days' rain would now enable her to come to port.

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1865.

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