Semi-Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday December 15, 1869

The First Occupation and the First Duty.

Agriculture was the first occupation assigned to our race, after that sad breach of trust of which our common progenitor was guilty, while in the enjoyment of primeval horticultural glory. Through all ages down to the present it has constituted the normal, the fundamental employment of civilized humanity. In no age has the primary importance of agriculture received more universal recognition than in the present. At no period in the world's history has the sentiment so aptly expressed by the poet met with more general or practical acquiescence:

"Ill fares the Land to hast'ning ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay,—
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade;
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

In all three sections of the United Kingdom the truth of this sentiment is receiving the most signal and, in one instance at least, painful illustration. So thoroughly has the national mind been brought to realize this that the ancient and darling aristocratic doctrine of primogeniture is doomed, and the question of how to constitute the greatest possible number absolute lords of the soil they till has become the great question of the day—the crux of Imperial legislation. Beginning with Ireland, it is now proposed to devote land to its proper and legitimate use by taking it from the favored classes in whose hands it has been for generations accumulating and placing it in the hands of those by the sweat of whose brow it is made fruitful. But this whole question is not confined in its application to the British Isles. It is of world-wide concernment; and to few is it of greater importance than to the people of British Columbia. It is true that we have as yet nothing worthy of the name of a 'landed aristocracy;' and it is equally true that 'primogeniture' has not yet fixed its iron grip upon our wide domain. Yet the evil which has attained such giant growth at home has already gained a foothold in British Columbia; and as 'noxious weeds grow apace,' it is well that the evil to which we allude should be nipped in the bud. Victoria, perhaps in a larger degree than any other locality in this colony, is suffering the bitter consequences of land monopolies. Instead of having our markets daily supplied with the products of the fertile soils in the immediate neighborhood, we are for the most part consuming the produce of foreign soil, simply because land-grabbers have, so to speak, reared a huge wall around the city to keep our own farmers out. The chief object of the present remarks, however, is to point out the obvious duty of the government in respect to lands not yet alienated from the Crown. While it is the duty of government as far as possible to cure the evil already created, the duty of *preventing* its further spread by adopting an effective mode of dealing with those lands which are still more immediately within its power, is of much greater moment, 'an ounce of prevention' being, as the old proverb has it, 'better than a pound of cure.' Repeated allusion has been made in this journal, and, for the matter of that, in every journal that has ever been published in the colony, to the fatal and inexplicable tendency on the part of the government towards illiberal principles in regard to the disposition of the public lands. The inefficient character of the Lands and Works Department, the most expensive department of an expensive government has also formed the subject of newspaper criticism and declamation for a series of years. We have long ardently wished to be placed in a position to announce the inauguration in this colony of a free grant system, under which every intending settler would be taken by the hand on his arrival in the Colony and helped to a free homestead, secured to him under the excellent Homestead Ordinance possessed by the Colony; yet, for some mysterious reason, we are still without such a system. But this is not the worst view of the matter. The acquirement of land by *bona fide* settlers under our illiberal and imperfect land system is rendered so very difficult and hazardous as to seriously militate against settlement; and in some instances those who have settled in spite of the obstructions thrown in their way by the circumlocution-office across James Bay have been ruthlessly robbed of the result of many months of honest toil. In truth, the whole administration of our public lands has for long been of a character but too well calculated to beget the impression that the policy of the Government is directly and distinctly inimical to settlement. These strictures may appear somewhat severe; yet we extremely regret to think that they find ample justification in fact. Rest well assured these remarks do not owe their origin to personal feeling; nor do we pretend to place the blame of this wretched condition of affairs upon individual shoulders. We have only to do with the palpable fact; not with individual responsibility. It is enough for us to know that colonial wellbeing has been made to suffer in its most vital part. Nor have we been enabled to touch new ground in these remarks. For years past have we earnestly besought the Government, either to transform the Lands and Works Department into a bureau of usefulness and utility, or to shut it up and place a padlock on the door. For years have we mourned over the fact that hundreds of valuable would-be settlers have been absolutely driven from our shores through the illiberal character and bad administration of our land system. It should be one of the first acts of Governor Musgrave, as it is his first duty, to completely revolutionise the whole Department and reconstruct the entire fabric.

The Bark Ruby Blown Ashore.—Yesterday morning, about 11 o'clock, word arrived in town that the British bark Ruby, laden with lumber for Australia, had dragged anchor and gone ashore near the mouth of Esquimalt harbor. We dispatched a reporter to the scene, but the southeast gale prevented his boarding the vessel, which lies with her stem on the sandy spit, at the lagoon outside the lighthouse and opposite the Esquimalt rifle-butts. The captain, who was in town, proceeded to Esquimalt and steam was got up by H. M. gunboat Boxer, which went outside, but found it impossible to board the bark, owing to the high sea running. None of the bark's people were able to reach the shore, and had to remain on board during the day. The ship maintained an upright position when last heard from, and did not appear to be thumping heavily, from which fact, and the sandy character of the spit, it is argued that she may be lightered and got off without much injury. The bark went ashore at 11 o'clock, a.m. when the gale was at its height. She was anchored in Royal Roads and dragged, and the mate, who was in charge, deemed it advisable to make sail and try to run into Esquimalt harbor; in doing so the vessel struck. The tide was high at the time.

From Liverpool to Victoria in Eighteen Days and a Half, Traveling Time.—Mr Henry Nathan, sr., arrived yesterday morning on the U S Q M steamer Newbern, after an absence in England of 2½ years. Mr Nathan sailed from Liverpool in the Inman steamship City of Brussels, arrived at Queenstown at 5 o'clock on the morning of the following Friday, sailed again the same evening at 5 o'clock, and arrived at New York city on Saturday evening, 27th November—8 days 1 hour from Queenstown, the shortest passage on record. Remained in New York city over Sunday and Monday and left Monday evening at 6 o'clock by train for Chicago, 1000 miles; arrived at Chicago at 6½ o'clock Wednesday morning, took a train at 10 o'clock from Omaha, a distance of 500 miles. Reached Omaha at 9½ o'clock Thursday morning, and embarked in a special express train from Omaha to San Francisco, 1900 miles, which was accomplished without change of cars. Reached San Francisco on Sunday night at 9 o'clock, and sailed in the Newbern for Victoria on Monday at 12 o'clock, noon, reaching Esquimalt shortly after midnight yesterday morning. Deducting the three days' detention, Mr Nathan was only 18½ days from Liverpool to Victoria. Thus does the Iron Horse annihilate time and space!

Famine again in India. From Rajpoutana Col. Keatings telegraphs, 'the present distress is terrible.' Over that 100,000 square miles of territory the black cloud of despair still hangs. At Sirsa the state of the people is described as deplorable. A harrowing account comes from Hisser, a frontier post between the British and Native territories; it is dated August 25th. During the latter few days, says the report, 'there has been a stream of people coming in from the surrounding Native States. The people are actually dying by starvation and want that their bones are almost rotten; the least blow breaks out a festering sore. To use physic is to such it is impossible. Many of them are wild with hunger, and others wish to get more than their share by scrambling, that others to keep quiet and to wait till the turn of each person comes are quite unheeded; and as soon as the food is brought a general rush takes place, and the people shove and scramble like so many wild beasts.' It is now no uncommon thing' says another report, 'to see on the highways the dead bodies of those who have perished of hunger.' The cholera too has desolated several districts.

The Overland Monthly for December comes to us with accumulative attractiveness. Among the many readable papers it contains not the least interesting in these parts will be found one on 'Cariboo.' In this paper is given a brief history of this colony as a gold producing country; and the writer, although at times indulging in word-painting, is not, for the most part, far astray in his facts and figures. The annual yield of our gold mines is put down at two millions, a figure which, although not altogether inapplicable to last season, would fall far below the yield of previous years. The writer sees in the distance permanently increased population and prosperity in store for British Columbia.

London House Almanac, 1870.—An elegantly gotten-up little *brochure*, from London House, was distributed yesterday. The printing and colouring are elaborate and beautiful. The covers have the leading features of the Dominion crest—the maple-leaf and beaver, and a faithful representation of the well-known Victoria premises of the firm. Within we find a list of the goods on sale at London House, a conveniently arranged calendar and memoranda, several advertisements and an able article on textile manufactures from the pen of Francis Young, Esq., F R G S. The book we should say, would be invaluable to ladies when shopping, and to business men at all times.

As showing the great depression at present in the English cotton manufactures, it was stated in a meeting lately held for the consideration of the subject, in Lancashire, that a mill which has been exposed for sale at a reserved bid of $1,750,000 in gold, only succeeded in eliciting an offer of $80,000. There has been, during the past few years, an increase of six and a half per cent in local pauperism, and a decrease of thirty-five per cent in the extent of trade. A single Manchester house had imported calicoes to the value of $400,000 in gold, in one year, of continental manufacture, and the influx of productions of the French cotton mills were daily on the increase. It is this state of things which is reviving the agitation for protective duties.

The Street By-Law is published this morning. It provides penalties for fast riding or driving through the streets or across bridges; for firing guns, pistols, cannons and fireworks; and for carrying firearms; for throwing garbage, filth or ashes into the streets; for not maintaining proper lights during the erection of buildings; for obstructing any highway or public thoroughfare; for obstructing drains or watercourses; for emptying water closets between the hours of six in the morning and eight in the evening. All street crossings must be maintained in good repair by the owners of the block or property situated nearest to such crossings. The by-law was much required and will, no doubt, work well.

'Victoria Foot-path By-law.'—A law with the above short title has been passed by the Mayor and Council, sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor, and published. It empowers the Mayor and Council to construct foot-paths wherever the same may be deemed necessary within the city limits and to maintain, alter or repair all foot-paths at the expense of property fronting thereon; also to construct and maintain hand-rails where necessary. Provision is also made for the more effectual preservation of foot-paths, and for preventing obstructions or nuisances thereon. The law appears to supply a want hitherto much felt, and with the large powers taken thereunder it will be the fault of the Mayor and Council if the city is not provided with good foot paths.

Few are probably aware of the fate of Byron's heart. After his death at Missolonghi, in 1822, his body was embalmed and sent to England, but the heart was begged and obtained by the Greeks, who enclosed it in a silver case. Four years later, after the protracted siege of Missolonghi a sallying party, carrying the relic with them, cut a way with great sacrifice of life through the Turkish lines—but the heart was lost in crossing the marshes.

Standard Life Assurance Company—M. Burnaby, agent, has laid on our table the colonial almanac, 1870, issued by the Standard Assurance Company. The book contains the calendar for the approaching year and some statistics of value to the assured. The income of the Standard exceeds $700 000 per annum, and its accumulated and invested fund amount to upwards of four millions sterling.

Death.—Mr. Chas. Hounslow, a civil engineer, died yesterday after a short but painful illness. Mr. Hounslow was an Englishman by birth and was aged about 52. At one time he was proprietor of the St. James Hotel, and latterly was largely interested in the Charlotte Coal Mining Company. He was much respected by his friends.

The U S steamer Newbern, Capt Freeman, 3½ days from San Francisco, arrived at 1 o'clock yesterday morning, bringing several passengers for Victoria and Puget Sound. Among the passengers were Henry Nathan, sr. and David Sharpser.

County Court—*Robson v Doran.*—In this suit judgment was given for plaintiff, $62 16. Mr. Courtney moved for a trial before a jury. A suit for wages against Mr J Grahamslaw was decided in favor of defendant.

The air is thick with rumors respecting important official changes and amalgamations. It is said the Governor, even while prostrate on a sick bed, is working faithfully, and that frequent sittings of the Executive Council have been held at his bedside.

More Incendiarism—The Coroner held an inquiry into the cause of the burning of the sawmill on the Saanich road a few days ago. The jury rendered a verdict of incendiarism against some person or persons unknown.

The mysterious movement of U S troops, mentioned in the dispatches, evidently points to a final squelching of the Fenians, who have manifested a disposition to take a hand in the Red River row.

The completion of the Suez Canal is already having the effect of seriously depreciating freights in London, round the Cape of Good Hope.

George Francis Train has sued the Overland Railroad Companies for $300,000, for blowing for them. It is considered to be the biggest gass-bill on record.

Captain Knocker, formerly of H. M. S. Alert, died recently on the coast of Africa, of fever.

The Weekly Colonist may be had at the publication office and at the bookstores to-day.

The Active will sail at 3 this afternoon for San Francisco.

Getting Better.—His Worship the Mayor is rapidly recovering.

Congress was to meet on Monday last.

ENGLISH BAZAAR!
FORT STREET, VICTORIA.
MRS. JOHNSTON
Has just received from Europe a large assortment of
ELEGANT GOODS!
SUITABLE FOR
Christmas Presents
CONSISTING OF
USEFUL AND FANCY ARTICLES.
Piano Fortes
Musical Boxes
Musical Albums
Work Boxes
Satchels
Writing Desks
Ladies' Companions
Talting Satchels.
ELECTRO-PLATED WARE.
Salvers
Tea Sets
Biscuit Vases [the only ones imported]
Cake Baskets
Cruet Stands
Dessert Knives and Forks
Forks and Spoons
Champagne Syphons.
Cutlery of a Superior Description.
Carvers
Corkscrews
Dinner and Breakfast Knives
Penknives and Scissors
MISCELLANEOUS.
French Jewelry
Baskets
A choice collection of the most Modern Comic Songs and Piano Forte Music
Toys imported from England, France and Germany, suitable for Christmas Trees
Colored Wax Tapers
Dolls of every size
Bryant and May's Safety Matches and Vesuvians
Cigars of the best brands
Brushes of every description
Pocket Combs and Looking Glasses
Fancy Wool Work
Boots and Shoes, and Hosiery
Berlin Wools and Knitting Wools
Ladies' and Children's Under Linen
Dress Trimmings
Velvets
Braids, Buttons
Dress Suspenders, Neckties
Millinery, Children's Dresses and Cloaks
Stationery, Cricket, Croquet and Archery Sets
Confectionery.
Worthington's (of Glasgow) Candies of every kind and finest quality, in 1lb, ½lb, and ¼lb bottles
Toffee, in tinfoil packets
French Chocolate
Scotch Marmalade, Candied Peels
An assortment of the finest Biscuits
Apple Paring, Pea Shelling and Mincing Machines
Elastic Sides can be replaced to Boots, by a Machine imported for the purpose.
Orders for the Upper Country Trade Solicited
Liberal Discounts allowed.
Mitchell & Johnston,
OFFER FOR SALE
Ex Coquette from London
AND OTHER RECENT ARRIVALS,
WINDOW GLASS.
Large and Small Sizes.
PUTTY of SUPERIOR QUALITY.
SACKS
Two and Three Bushel, Grain and Bran.
Preserve Jars,
Of Glass and Earthenware.
FLOWER POTS—London Make.
The Gardener's Friend.
A Patent Cocoa-Fibrated Manure.
FOWLER'S INSECTICIDE
For destruction of all kinds of Insects and Blight.
Registered Self-Acting Hand Drill,
For Sowing all kinds of Seeds. One of the handiest little Implements ever made.
ETC., ETC., ETC.
OCCIDENTAL EMPORIUM,
Fort Street.
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Dr. RICHAU'S GOLDEN REMEDIES
Use these only, and save time, health and money.
$1000 Reward for any case of disease in any stage which they fail to cure.
DR. RICHAU'S GOLDEN BALSAM, No. 1, cures Ulcers, Ulcerated Sore Throat and Mouth, Sore Eyes, Cutaneous Eruptions, Copper colored blotches, Scrofula of the Scalp, Scrofula, &c.; it is the greatest Renovator, Alterative and Blood Purifier known, removes all mercury from the system, and leaves the blood pure and healthy.
DR. RICHAU'S GOLDEN BALSAM, No. 2, CURES Mercurial Affections, Rheumatism in all its forms, and gives immediate relief in all cases. Price of either No. 1 or 2, $5 per bottle, or two for $9.
DR. RICHAU'S GOLDEN ANTIDOTE, A RADICAL cure for all urinary derangements. Price $3 a bottle.
DR. RICHAU'S GOLDEN ELIXIR, A FAMOUS RADICAL cure for Nervous or General Debility, in old or young, imparting energy with wonderful effect. Price $5 per bottle, or two bottles for $9.
On receipt of price these remedies will be shipped to any place. Prompt attention paid to all correspondence. None genuine without the name of the proprietor, DR. RICHAU'S GOLDEN REMEDIES, D. B. RICHARDS, 224 Varick St, N. Y., blown in glass of bottles.
Address, DR. D. B. RICHARDS, 224 Varick St, N. Y.
REDINGTON, HERRIDGE & CO.,
Agents for the Pacific Coast.
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THE BEST REMEDY
FOR INDIGESTION, &c.
NORTON'S
CAMOMILE PILLS
ARE CONFIDENTLY RECOMMENDED AS A gentle aperient; the proprietor feels justified in asserting that they may be taken by any person for any complaint in which an aperient is required, with the certainty of their acting mildly but effectually; that they do not contain any mercury or other mineral substance, and that no family should be without them as a powerful tonic and gentle aperient; are mild in their operation; safe under any circumstances; and the testimonials of persons can now be adduced to the extraordinary benefits derived from their use.
Sold in bottles at 1s 1½d, 2s 9d and 4s 6d each, by all Druggists and Storekeepers in all towns in the Colonies, the Islands adjacent thereto, and throughout the Pacific Ocean.
Ayer's Cathartic Pills,
For all the purposes of a Laxative Medicine.
Perhaps no one medicine is so universally required by everybody as a cathartic, nor was ever any before so universally adopted into use in every country and among all classes, as this mild but efficient purgative *Pill*. The obvious reason is, that it is a more reliable and far more effectual remedy than any other. Those who have tried it, know that it cures them; those who have not, know that it cures their neighbors and friends, and all know that what it does once it does always—that it never fails through any fault or neglect of its composition. We have thousands upon thousands of certificates of their remarkable cures of the following complaints, but such cures are known in every neighborhood, and we need not publish them.
Adapted to all ages and conditions in all climates, containing neither calomel or any deleterious drug, they may be taken with safety by anybody. Their sugar coating preserves them ever fresh and makes them pleasant to take, while being purely vegetable no harm can arise from their use in any quantity.
They operate by their powerful influence on the internal viscera to purify the blood and stimulate it into healthy action—remove the obstructions of the stomach, bowels, liver, and other organs of the body, restoring their irregular action to health, and by correcting, wherever they exist, such derangements as are the first origin of disease.
Minute directions are given in the wrapper on the box, for the following complaints, which these *Pills* rapidly cure:—
For Dyspepsia or Indigestion, Listlessness, Languor and Loss of Appetite, they should be taken moderately to stimulate the stomach and restore its healthy tone and action.
For Liver Complaint and its various symptoms, Bilious Headache, Sick Headache, Jaundice or Green Sickness, Bilious Colic and Bilious Fevers, they should be judiciously taken for each case, to correct the diseased action or remove the obstructions which cause it.
For Dysentery or Diarrhœa, but one mild dose is generally required.
For Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, Palpitation of the Heart, Pain in the Side, Back and Loins, they should be continuously taken, as required, to change the diseased action of the system. With such change those complaints disappear.
For Dropsy and Dropsical Swellings they should be taken in large and frequent doses to produce the effect of a drastic purge.
For Suppression a large dose should be taken as it produces the desired effect by sympathy.
As a Dinner Pill, take one or two Pills to promote digestion and relieve the stomach.
An occasional dose stimulates the stomach and bowels into healthy action, restores the appetite, and invigorates the system. Hence it is often advantageous where no serious derangement exists. One who feels tolerably well, often finds that a dose of these *Pills* makes him feel decidedly better, from their cleansing and renovating effect on the digestive apparatus.
DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Practical Chemists,
LOWELL, MASS., U. S. A.
Ayer's Sarsaparilla,
FOR PURIFYING THE BLOOD.
The reputation this excellent medicine enjoys, is derived from its cures, many of which are truly marvellous. Inveterate cases of Scrofulous disease, where the system seemed saturated with corruption, have been purified and cured by it. Scrofulous affections and disorders, which were aggravated by the scrofulous contamination until they were painfully afflicting, have been radically cured in such great numbers in almost every section of the country, that the public scarcely need to be informed of its virtues on account of Scrofulous poison is one of the most destructive enemies of our race. Often, this unseen and unjudged tenant of the organism undermines the constitution, and invites the attack of enfeebling or fatal diseases, without exciting a suspicion of its presence. Again, it seems to breed infection throughout the body, and then, on some favorable occasion, rapidly develops into one or other of its hideous forms, either on the surface or among the vitals. In the latter, tubercles may be suddenly deposited in the lungs or heart, or tumors formed in the liver, or it shows its presence by eruptions on the skin, or foul ulcers anywhere on some part of the body. Hence the occasional use of a bottle of this *Sarsaparilla* is advisable, even when no active symptoms of disease appear. Persons afflicted with the following complaints generally find immediate relief, and at length cure, by the use of this *SARSAPARILLA*: *St. Anthony's Fire, Rose or Erysipelas, Tetter, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Ringworm, Sore Eyes, Sore Ears*, and other eruptions or visible forms of *Scrofulous* disease. Also in the more concealed forms, as *Dyspepsia, Dropsy, Heart Disease, Fits, Epilepsy, Neuralgia*, and the various *Ulcerous* affections of the muscular and nervous systems.
Syphilis or Venereal and Mercurial Diseases are cured by it, though a long time is required for subduing these obstinate maladies by any medicine. But long continued use of this medicine will cure the complaint. *Leucorrhœa or Whites, Ulcerous Ulcerations*, and *Female Diseases*, are commonly soon relieved, and ultimately cured by its purifying and invigorating effect. Minute Directions for each case are found in our Almanac, supplied gratis. *Rheumatism* and *Gout*, when caused by accumulations of extraneous matters in the blood, yield quickly to it, as also *Liver Complaints, Torpidity of Secretion*, or *Inflammation of the Liver*, and *Jaundice*, when arising, as they often do, from the rankling poisons in the blood. This *SARSAPARILLA* is a great restorer for the strength and vigor of the system. Those who are *Languid and Feeble, Despondent, Sleepless*, and troubled with *Nervous Apprehensions* or *Fears*, or any of the affections symptomatic of *Weakness*, will find immediate relief and convincing evidence of its restorative power upon trial.
PREPARED BY
DR. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass.,
Practical and Analytical Chemists.
SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE.
THE PERFECTION OF PREPARED COCOA.
MARAVILLA COCOA.
SOLE PROPRIETORS,
TAYLOR BROTHERS,
LONDON.
THE COCOA OF THE CACAO OF MARAVILLA is the true THEOBROMA DIVINE—Cocoa in indigenous to South America, of which Maravilla is a favored portion. TAYLOR BROTHERS having secured the exclusive supply of their unrivalled Cocoa, they by the skilful application of the valuable principle and elaborate machinery produced what is so justly by the Perfection of prepared Cocoa, that it has not only secured the preference of Royal palates and Cocoa-drinkers generally, but many who had hitherto not found enjoyment on so to suit them, have after one trial, adopted the Maravilla Cocoa as their constant beverage for breakfast, luncheon, &c. to the exclusion of all others.
AN UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS.
See following Extract from the Globe of May 12, 1868.
"Various importers and manufacturers have attempted to attain a reputation for their prepared Cocoas; but we doubt whether any thorough success has been achieved until Messrs Taylor Brothers introduced the extraordinary qualities of "Maravilla" Cocoa.
"Adopting their perfect system of preparation to this, the finest of all species of the Theobroma, they have produced an article which supersedes every other Cocoa in the market. Entire freedom from alkali and a rare concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For breakfast and luncheon we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage."
Sold in Packets only by all Grocers, of whom also may be had Taylor Brothers' Chocolate Nut and Soluble Chocolate.
Steam Mills—Brick Lane, London.