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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 8. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1867. NO. 35

WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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A Leak that ought to be Stopped.

The Government Assay Office at New Westminster cost the colony last year exactly $2941 49; and the Executive went down to the Council in March last and asked for $3950 to defray the expense of continuing the establishment for another year. It was understood that the question was an "open" one—that the official members of the Council were at liberty to vote for or against the continuance of the office without jeopardizing their positions. But, "a fellow feeling makes us wond'rous kind." The officials were afraid to set a retrenchment ball in motion that might at some future time be used to bowl them out of their snug *billets*, and after a long and hot debate the required amount was granted. To vote the money was easy enough; raising it has proved a rather more difficult task. The actual revenue has been found to fall so far short of the estimate of March, that we learn the Governor has signified his intention of closing the establishment forthwith as the first step to other and still more extensive retrenchments. It appears that a "general holiday" is the "order of the day" among the assayers. The few miners and traders who do not sell their dust to the banks at Cariboo will not leave it for assay at New Westminster for the excellent reason that they would have to remain there over one steamer, while business calls them to Victoria, where they can attend to other matters while the dust is being assayed. One argument advanced by the advocates in favor of a continuance of the Assay Office is that three or four men will be thrown out of work by its closing and that the trade of New Westminster will suffer in consequence by their having to leave the place! In plainer terms: The whole Colony is expected to pay tribute to New Westminster to the tune of $2941 49 to assist in the maintenance of that important city! Monstrously absurd and impudent as this proposition may appear, it is nevertheless the only excuse that can be offered for not stopping this great leak. The "rot" about the office forming the "nucleus of a mint" is amusing. When the day arrives for this Colony to strike off its own coin, it will be quite time enough to talk about establishing a Mint and an Assay Office; but to maintain the present establishment at an annual loss to the revenue of at least $3000, while the Colony is so poor that it cannot pay for the services of officials in establishments that realize a profit, is outrageous. There is another weighty reason why this office should be instantly closed. It enters into competition with private enterprise. The Colony is not alone paying money to continue a losing concern, but it is contributing means to drive out of the country private capital already invested in establishments where the assays are just as reliable and the charges just as reasonable as at the Government office. The Assay Office is an incumbrance. The means required for its support cannot be spared, and from the injury it is inflicting upon enterprising citizens, in place of proving a public benefit it is a public nuisance. The infamous Gold Export Duty, that drove thousands of valuable men from the country and proved so disastrous to every interest, was devised for the especial benefit of New Westminster; and the Government Assay Office has been maintained for three years at the expense of every other part of the Colony to benefit the same unworthy object. The Governor stands to-day in the position of a man who has lived beyond his means and has only awakened to a realizing sense of his position when he finds the source of his income exhausted. Let us hope that this evidence of reformation is sincere, and that the Assay Office will be speedily abated—like any other nuisance.

The New Trades' Licences.

The new Trades' Licence Law is in force, and the sums due are now payable to the Magistrate at his office. The penalty for trading without a licence is a fine not exceeding the sum of $250. It will be observed that wholesale merchants, or merchants selling by both wholesale and retail, will be required to pay $50 for every six months; retail traders $5 for every six months. A considerable reduciion is made in liquor licences. Bankers are charged $600 per annum less for their head office than was the case under the old Island scale, and only $100 for each other place of business in the Colony. Auctioneers will pay a yearly licence of $100—which is $150 less than was exacted by the old scale—and 1½ per cent. (instead of 2½ per cent. as before) on returns of sales, exclusive of sales of real estate, upon which the charge is *nil*. In other respects the rate is approximately the same as that formerly in force here. For the information of our readers, here is the schedule of the Act:

SCHEDULE A.

By each person vending spirituous or fermented Liquors, by retail, for each House or Place in the Colony where such vending is carried on, if in a town of not less than fifty inhabitants, $100 for every 6 months.

Where such retail vending is carried on in a Rural District not forming part of a Town, $30 for every 6 months.

By each person not having a retail licence as above, and vending spirituous and fermented liquors for wholesale, that is to say in quantities of not less than two gallons, for each house or place in the Colony, $25 for every six months.

By each person keeping a Saloon or Building where a Billiard Table is used for hire or profit, $5 for each table for every 6 months.

By each person keeping and letting for hire any Bowling Alley or Rifle Gallery, for each Bowling Alley or Rifle Gallery, $5 for every 6 months.

By every person keeping a Dancing House, $100 for every 6 months.

By every person selling Opium, except Chemists and Druggists using the same in the preparation of prescriptions of Medical practitioners, $50 for every 6 months.

For every person carrying on the business of a wholesale or of a wholesale and a retail merchant or trader, $50 for every 6 months

For every retail trader, $5 for every 6 months.

Such two last mentioned Licences to enable the person paying the same to change his place of abode or business at pleasure, but not to carry on business at two places at the same time under one Licence.

By every person not having a Free Miner's Certificate, engaged in mining for gold, whether on his own account or for hire, such payment to include a Free Miner's Certificate, $5 for 1 year.

By every person owning a Pack Train of more than six animals, Freight Wagon, Stage Coach or Omnibus, used in transporting goods for profit or hire a distance beyond 10 miles from any town, and not paying a Merchant's or Trader's Sicence, $5 for every 6 months.

By every person owning a Pack Train of less than six animals, Dray, Wagon or Omnibus, used in transporting goods and passengers for profit or hire, within a distance of 10 miles from any town, and not paying a Merchant's or Trader's Licence, $2 50 for every 6 months.

By every Livery Stable Keeper not paying Trading Licence, $10 for every 6 months.

Every person following the calling of Cattle Drover in the Colony shall pay $50 for every 6 months.

By every person carrying on, on his own account, the business of a Banker at one place of business, $400 for 1 year.

And for each other place of business in the Colony, $100 for 1 year.

By every person practising as a Barrister-at-Law, Attorney-at-Law or Solicitor in the said Colony, $50 for 1 year.

By every person following the occupation of Conveyancer or Land Agent, or both, $25 for every 6 months.

By every Auctioneer (not being a Government Officer selling by auction Government property) in addition to any other Licence in this Schedule, $50 for every 6 months, and 1½ per cent. on returns of sales, exclusive of Real Estate.

By every person occupying any Crown Lands, by making any erections thereon, and carrying on any trade upon the same, in addition to the duties above charged and for the use of the Land so occupied by him, $2 50 for every month.

THE ASCENT OF MOUNT BAKER—Mr Coleman, the Librarian of the Mechanics' Institute, will again attempt to ascend Mount Baker on the 15th inst. The *News* yesterday stated that several gentlemen will accompany Mr Coleman. This statement is incorrect—the explorer will go alone.

Monday, July 8th,

From Cariboo.

Through the polite attention of Mr Lawson of the Bank of British North America, we have files of the Cariboo *Sentinel* to the 27th ult., from which we take the following summary:

WILLIAM CREEK.

The week had been one of unprecedented dullness among all classes of the community, a condition of things chiefly, if not wholly, attributable to the cessation of mining operations caused by the freshet. The week's yield of the principal claims was as follows: Aurora, 220 oz; Davis, 206; Borealis, 45 oz; Forrest Rose, 30 oz.

CONKLIN'S GULCH.

United, for the week 117 oz; Reid, getting into good pay, supposed to be continuation of United lead. They washed up for the week 30 oz; Home Stake are in 400 feet with their tunnel. Hood, 300 feet on bed rock.

STOUT'S GULCH.

The claims in this gulch bid fair to yield a rich harvest this year. Alturas washed up for the week 161 oz, one nugget weighed 7 oz and another over 3 oz; Jenkins paying an ounce a day to the hand; Mucho Oro, 60 oz for the week.

LOWHEE CREEK.

Important developments anticipated. The Vaughan Sweeny, partial week's wash, 100 ounces.

GROUSE CREEK.

Times dull; work not generally commenced yet, and the richest known ground locked up in law courts.

On several other creeks there is more or less mining going on, yielding variously from $12 to $20 a day to the hand.

GENERAL NEWS.

A large pack train belonging to the Hudson Bay Company arrived with goods on the 23d. Mr John Work takes charge of the Company's store on the creek.——There are no less than four milk ranches on the meadows of William Creek, numbering 80 cows. Milk is sold at $1 a gallon.——Judge Begbie and suite arrived on the 23d.——The *Sentinel* speers at the proposal of Government to have a wagon road built to Grouse Creek, payment to be taken in tolls upon the same.——A Chinaman at work in the Ne'er-do-Well claim on Grouse Creek, was instantly killed on the 25th by the caving of a lump of clay.——The Assizes would open on the 1st inst. There were only two criminal cases on the docket; Barry and the Indian who were sent up from here.——Five companies, numbering twenty men, were at work on Cunningham's Creek, most of whom were taking out pay. The Alturas on Stout's Gulch washed up 80 oz on the 26th.

FROM THE NORTH—The H. B. Company's steamer Otter, Captain Lewis, arrived from the North West Coast of the mainland on Saturday, at 5 p.m., with furs and oil for the owners. Mr Manson and family, Mr Elwyn, of the W. U. Telegraph Line, and a few other persons, came down by her. The memoranda will be found under the usual heading. From Mr Elwyn we learn that in addition to the employés of the H. B. Co., there are now twelve miners on the Stekin. Two of that number are working above the Big Canyon, some 60 miles above Buck's Bar; they hauled up their provisions during the winter on sleighs. Mining ground on Stekin, below the canyon, will only pay small wages. There is good ground above the Canyon, but the expense of getting supplies there is at present very great. The H.B. Co.'s and Telegraph Co.'s depot have been located about four miles above Buck's Bar, on the right bank of the river, a point slightly below the head of navigation.

BRIEF MENTION—The Governor returned from New Westminster by the Enterprise on Saturday evening.....Mr Coleman, Librarian of the Mechanics' Institute, will again attempt to ascend Mount Baker on the 15th inst.....The V. I. Coal Company at Nanaimo are about to put down a new bore on Chase River Plains. A testimonial to Mr C. S. Nicol, late manager of the Company, is being prepared at Nanaimo. Mr Nicol will sail in the ship Nation's Hope for San Francisco.....The H. B. Co.'s steamer Otter, from the Northwest Coast, arrived on Saturday evening.....James Schaff, a Stekin river miner, suffering from rheumatism in the neck, was brought down to this place from the mouth of Stekin river by the Otter for medical treatment.

THE COLLIERS AND THE COAL COMPANY—We are extremely sorry to hear that no sooner had the difficulties between the colliers and the company been arranged (the miners finding the powder and oil, and the Company agreeing to pay $1 12½ per ton for 'digging' the coal, supply the pick-handles and a ton of coal monthly to each miner, gratuitously) than a new source of delay arose in consequence of the 'runners' (whose duty it is to load the cars and 'run' them to the bottom of the shaft) refused to begin work unless coal and oil were furnished them as under the old arrangement. No work has in consequence been done, but the Nanaimo *Gazette* learns that tenders to let the "running" out by contract have been entertained by the Company.

DOUGLAS DIGGINGS—The *Examiner* learns that the lost lead on the Douglas Portage has been recovered, and that two white men are making from $8 to $12 per day apiece. Purcell, of the Hot Springs House, is making a ditch three quarters of a mile long, and has about two-thirds of it finished. He intends to work the flat on which his house stands, having, when digging a well a short time ago, obtained a good prospect. The Italian company are still at work near the 24-mile House, and making good wages.

PANTHER SHOT—Mr Porter, of Cowichan, informs us that a few days ago, while riding through the settlement, he came suddenly upon two large panthers, with two cubs, lying in the middle of the road. One of the panthers sprang at our informant, whose horses became so terrified as to be unmanageable. Sticks and stones were thrown at the audacious beasts, but they refused to leave, and Porter finally rode back four miles to a farmer's house, where he procured dogs and a rifle, and with two men who were also armed, he returned to the spot and succeeded in killing one of the old panthers and one of the cubs and securing the other cub alive. The remaining panther escaped by night.

TREASURE FROM THE MINES—The Enterprise, on Saturday evening, brought down a quantity of gold dust from the mines. The amount is stated by one of the New Westminster journals to be $160,000 and by the other $200 000. From other sources we learn that these figures are the result of 'guessing,' and that neither is correct, the banks having for some reason declined to furnish any information to the papers. What good object the suppression of the *truth* will subserve we are at loss to understand.

DEATH—An Indian woman who has resided for nearly two years on William creek, and was commonly known by the sobriquet of "Captain John," died on Monday last from inflammation of the windpipe. This poor creature was the daughter of an Indian chief called Captain John, who was shot in Victoria jail seven years ago, for making a murderous attack on the officers.

FROM NANAIMO—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Captain Clarke, arrived from Nanaimo on Saturday evening at 7 o'clock. The following passengers, with about ten others, arrived: Messrs McClure, Carswell, Bishop, Merritt and family, and McIlveen. A small quantity of produce came down from the way settlements. The crops look promising.

BROUGHT BACK—The Otter brought back all her goods from Sitka, the Russian Governor declining to allow the cargo to be landed except upon payment of the American Tariff, or as bonded goods.

THE IDAHO left San Francisco on the evening of the 5th inst. for Victoria direct, and will return direct, and not via Portland, as previously advertised.

THE BREAK in the Wagon Road above Yale is trifling, and the damage will be repaired in a day or two.

THE British ship Nation's Hope will be loaded at Nanaimo to-morrow with 1050 tons of coal for San Francisco.

A House with a Romance.

Three miles west of the village of Georgetown, Madison County, New York, is a place known as Mather Farm It comprises some seven hundred and thirty-five acres. A correspondent of the Oneida *Dispatch* furnishes some interesting facts in its early history:

In the year 1810, an individual known at that time as Lewis Anathe Muller, a French refugee, settled on this tract, then a wilderness, more desolate than now, and attempted the establishment of a village. He erected a spacious dwelling, strong and solid walls being constructed of hewn timber, every bent being raised closely against another, making a wall of solid timber twelve to fourteen inches thick. This fortress-like frame was well covered without, and most carefully finished within, after a style best fancied by the strange builder. The walls present a nice finish, and time has proved their durability. The building is of the European style of architecture of that time, being not far from eighty feet long, and of proportionate width, divided into rooms and halls. Originally, there were seven fireplaces. It is said that in the cellar an apartment, undiscoverable by a stranger, whose sacred purposes were never told, was provided. Large, commodious out buildings were erected, two large store houses, numerous fruit trees planted, and an artificial pond raised, the dam of which years ago was levelled by subsequent occupants, none of whom, to my knowledge, have owned it or any part of it. Muller brought here with him about one hundred and fifty hands, as stated by some of our oldest men, who knew him and assisted him in his enterprise, and $150,000. Many supposed him to be Louis Phillippe himself, King of France, and that he sought this secluded hill and constructed this house in its peculiar manner as a means of defence in case of danger. At any rate there was not, and is not to-day any doubt that he was one of the nobility of France, for when Bonaparte abdicated he returned to France, leaving his family (wife and children) in New York. Evidently no pains were spared to make this lonely place pleasant, and render the lands, naturally sterile, fruitful and agreeable to the apparently cultivated taste of the exiled Frenchman. Consequently forests were levelled, and hundreds of acres cleared with particular care. Money was lavished, and labor without stint applied to beautify this wild, secluded hill. On going to France he left his property in care of some of his servants who accompanied him here. But after a few years he returned to New York, thence to Georgetown, to find his adopted home nearly deserted, everything in a dilapidated state; his valuable and costly furniture carried away or broken, and of all the property which he bought, amounting to $150,000 or more, it is related that he did not recover $150. He returned to New York, disposed of his lands and immovable estate at a ruinous bargain, and sailed for France. None in this vicinity know to this day who he was, or what was his real character. The farm has ever since been owned by parties living in New York or in eastern counties, and has been worked, when worked at all, by tenants who wanted to live bad enough to do it, always at a 'poor lay,' even if all their own way: An air of romance has ever since clung around that stern but stately mansion with its lofty poplars and spacious green in front: And, until recently, reports were rife, and frequently believed, that this house was haunted, and its occupants have been known to leave actually believing in the mysterious tales of haunted houses, and that this was one.

A Thief with the Poetry Fever.

At the [illegible] Wade (twenty-one), clerk, was indicted for burglary in the dwelling house of Grace Fielding, of Todmorden, where she keeps a temperance hotel. Whilst in the lock-up at Hebden Bridge, prisoner penned a poetical account of his life in which he described his temptation by the devil to commit the robbery. We give but a few verses. Having traced his arrival at Mrs. Fielding's, he says:

I call'd for butter, bread, and tea,
And made a hearty meal;
When lo! the devil enter'd me,
And tempted me to steal!

The postman sharp, that pet of men,
Call'd at her door at nine,
And brought her bank-notes five and ten,
I wished that they were mine.

"They can be yours," the devil said,
And fill'd me with desire;
That day I felt my youthful head
With agony on fire.

"Fifteen pounds will set thee right,
And lift thee from thy cares;
Then to the deed, my boy, to-night,
And better thy affairs."

Prisoner addressed the jury in his own defense, alleging that he was subject to fits of insanity. Upon the jury finding the prisoner guilty, the latter handed in a written document to the judge, extending to a considerable number of verses, of which the following is a sample:

Before this court, great Judge, and thee,
As sorrow's meanest slave,
In burning brain and heart of pain,
A mighty boon I crave.

Oh! spare me yet a little while,
Blast not my youthful life
Within a dungeon dark and vile,
Amid the sons of strife.

To mighty empires yet unborn
My muse shall breathe thy name,
In glowing words the deed shall burn
With everlasting fame.

Then yet in mercy hear my plea,
My feelings wear no mask,
Before this court, great Judge, from thee
One chance is all I ask.

I remain, my Lord Judge and gentlemen of the Jury,
Your humble servant,
MICHAEL JOSEPH WADE.

His Lordship said it was painful to see a young man embued with superior talent in such a position as that of the prisoner, and who had, in fact, prostituted the natural gifts with which he had been endowed. As to his claim for sympathy on the ground of insanity, he (the judge) said he believed his disease was more of a moral than mental character. The sentence must be one of 12 months' imprisonment with hard labor. Prisoner: May I ask a privilege? Will you allow me pens, ink, and paper in prison? His Lordship: I have nothing to do with that. It will have to be determined by the prison regulations.

MR. BASS AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—Mr. Bass has addressed the following letter to the members of the Derby Liberal Association, explanatory of his voting with the Government on Friday evening last:—"I reply to your letter of yesterday. My reasons, stated shortly, for voting with Government were, first, to save the Reform Bill. Mr. Disraeli was pledged to throw up the Bill if Mr. Gladstone's resolutions were carried; whether those resolutions were or were not designed to throw out the Bill and the Government, that was clearly their import. I am as much opposed to the rating provisions of the Bill as Mr. Gladstone himself; they are not merely unequal, mischievous, and invidious, they are foolish, and could not in my judgment be maintained for a single Session in Parliament after the passing of the Bill. But the Bill offers us household suffrage, which I regard as the only lasting settlement of this great controversy. Mr. Gladstone, from all I have heard from him publicly or privately, will not entertain it for a moment; he has denounced it; yet the most Conservative member of his late Government, Sir Roundell Palmer, and the most Radical member, Mr. Forster, have alike declared in its favour. Mr. Gladstone's rival Bill rests on a £5 rating franchise; I am opposed to it; I cannot find any element of permanency in it; why, Mr. Bright, while declaring for it in Friday's debate, protested that he preferred a £4 rating. Well, but Mr. Lowe, Mr. Horsman, and Lord Cranborne, who last year threw out Mr Gladstone's Bill, are now doing their worst to throw out Mr Disraeli's Bill; they say it is revolutionary! What is a plain man to do? I voted against men who have been the most marked enemies of Reform, and whom I voted against last year. I may be wrong; if I discover any certain mode of pleasing all my constituents, or even all those of the Liberal side, I should eagerly adopt it; but such unanimity cannot be hoped for out of a political paradise; members then are thrown on their own resources. I have acted to the best of my judgment; if I have thereby incurred the censure of my friends I shall be sorry indeed, but I shall never regret that I gave an honest vote. Every Liberal member I have conversed with who voted with Mr Gladstone has expressed to me that they were delighted they were outvoted. No! there was one Liberal who said to me, 'Bass, you ought to be ashamed of yourself.' Mind he was in high office under the last Government, and wants to get back again with the least possible delay. These people cannot patiently endure to be kept out in the cold."

TAKE AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL to stop your Colds, Coughs and Bronchial Affections before they run into Consumption that you cannot stop.