

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST And Victoria Chronicle.

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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
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The Pacific railroad is approaching completion. The entire work will be done in August of the present year. Six companies, with an aggregate capital of \$100,000,000, are engaged in the enterprise. They receive \$60,500,000, and a land grant of 12,800 acres per mile (in all 35,000,000 acres) from the United States Government as a subsidy for the investment of their capital in the grand undertaking, the most gigantic of the kind yet inaugurated. The probable effect of a consolidation of these railroads into one company upon the political morale of the Republic has already formed a subject for discussion in the public press and in Congress. A member of Congress, in opposing the grant of the enormous subsidy to the companies as greater than the shareholders had any right to expect, said—"They will wield a power that will successfully defy all legislative control; a power that will make and unmake Presidents, Senators, Members of Congress, Governors, Legislatures and Judicial Officers."

force every interest in the country to pay tribute at the price of its existence." In the last report of the Vice-President of the road, he puts down \$500,000 as disbursed for "confidential purposes." And the company passed the item without dispute. It had been expended (so the opponents of the scheme allege) in corrupting members of Congress to vote for subsidies and grants, in buying favorable reports from Government engineers sent to examine the road and the quality of the work, and in feeing agents to discourage the subsidizing or construction of competing roads. The shareholders in this monopoly want to make their road the grand trunk road across the continent. Hence they intrigue and manoeuvre, and buy and sell politicians and traffic in principles with as little concern as though they were so much mutton for which they were paying the market price. The Congressmen who protected against the arrangement appears to have been "cut," for he was right when he remarked that the monopoly would "force every interest in the country to pay it tribute." It is already doing so in its opposition—and thus far successful opposition—to the construction of a Northern Pacific Railroad with its western terminus on Puget Sound. The monopoly will welcome branch lines, or feeders. They will bring "grist to their mill," but it denounces and will attempt the defeat of any scheme having for its object the building of a road that somewhere along its line does not connect with their grand trunk and contribute to swell its earnings. Through the overwhelming influence of their capital the monopolists hope to drive every competitive company that may succeed in getting a charter and subsidy into bankruptcy, until they themselves are prepared to build additional lines and obtain exclusive control of the trans-continental traffic for all time. This picture—if the data from which we draw it be not highly colored—presents anything but a bright outlook, for the interests of the Pacific coast must suffer considerably by the concentration of the facilities for rapid transit in the hands of a few California companies that, but for the un-

State, and still they voted year by year to award it a handsome subsidy and assist it in its too successful efforts in crushing out opposition lines. Perhaps the Pacific Mail, like the Pacific Railroad Company, assumed a "confidential manner" whilst approaching the Congressmen; if they did, their confidence has never been betrayed. A monopoly, with a capital of one hundred millions and a subsidy in money and lands equal to two hundred millions more, and possessing undivided control of the principal highway across a great continent, is an institution dangerous to the commercial progress of a country and prejudicial to its political morality. To neutralize the baneful effects of this mammoth, overwhelming monopoly, the opening of another line from Puget Sound to the Atlantic is imperatively demanded. Prominent men from the adjacent territory are now at Washington urging the claims of this route upon the notice of Congress; but we fear that the "confidential manner" of the present company will prove too powerful, and that the pleasure of announcing the passage of the necessary charter and subsidy will not fail to us during the present year.

Legislative Council
Friday, Jan. 8

Present—Hons Helmecken, Hamley, Wakeham, Crease, Wood, Havelock, Davis, Ball, O'Reilly, Busby, Carrall, Humphreys, Drake, Pemberton, Trutch, Alston, Ring, Young, [presiding.]

Hon Davis presented petition from settlers at Cowichan, praying that lands be appropriated for every interest in the country to pay tribute at the price of its existence." In the last report of the Vice-President of the road, he puts down \$500,000 as disbursed for "confidential purposes." And the company passed the item without dispute. It had been expended (so the opponents of the scheme allege) in corrupting members of Congress to vote for subsidies and grants, in buying favorable reports from Government engineers sent to examine the road and the quality of the work, and in feeing agents to discourage the subsidizing or construction of competing roads. The shareholders in this monopoly want to make their road the grand trunk road across the continent. Hence they intrigue and manoeuvre, and buy and sell politicians and traffic in principles with as little concern as though they were so much mutton for which they were paying the market price. The Congressmen who protected against the arrangement appears to have been "cut," for he was right when he remarked that the monopoly would "force every interest in the country to pay it tribute." It is already doing so in its opposition—and thus far successful opposition—to the construction of a Northern Pacific Railroad with its western terminus on Puget Sound. The monopoly will welcome branch lines, or feeders. They will bring "grist to their mill," but it denounces and will attempt the defeat of any scheme having for its object the building of a road that somewhere along its line does not connect with their grand trunk and contribute to swell its earnings. Through the overwhelming influence of their capital the monopolists hope to drive every competitive company that may succeed in getting a charter and subsidy into bankruptcy, until they themselves are prepared to build additional lines and obtain exclusive control of the trans-continental traffic for all time. This picture—if the data from which we draw it be not highly colored—presents anything but a bright outlook, for the interests of the Pacific coast must suffer considerably by the concentration of the facilities for rapid transit in the hands of a few California companies that, but for the un-

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon Carrall, to incorporate a loan and investment association.
Hon Helmecken, to admit of ships being supplied free of duty.
Hon Havelock, for a uniform system of education.
Hon Carrall, to enquire if salaries of school teachers of Vancouver Island incurred before Union be paid.
Hon Davis, to ask what steps had been taken to discover the perpetrator of the Salt Spring Island murder.
Hon Helmecken alluded to the petition presented from Mr Nicholson, and read the report of proceedings in Supreme Court from the Colonist. In justice to all he thought further inquiry necessary, and proposed that a committee be appointed for that purpose with power to send for persons and papers.
Hons Crease, Hamley, Alston, Wakeham, Pemberton and Ball opposed the motion as premature until after the case had been gone into on the 19th inst, at the Supreme Court.
Hons Carrall, Havelock and Ring supported the motion as in no way likely to prejudice the case. At the request of Hon Helmecken the motion was withdrawn.
Hon Crease brought in Finesse Bill for second reading. Read second time accordingly, and will go into committee to-morrow.
Hon Crease introduced Savings Bank Bill for second reading. Second reading passed; committee for Monday.
Hon Davis asked leave to bring in a bill for the destruction of wolves and badgers. Leave granted; read first time, and second reading fixed for Wednesday next.
Hon Helmecken moved that the house go into committee on resolutions for the alteration of the Legislative and Executive Councils. The Council then went into committee, Hon Ball in the Chair. An animated discussion then ensued on the first section, during which Hon Trutch proposed an amendment. The committee then rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.
The Council then adjourned until Friday at 1 o'clock, p. m.

An Indian was brought before Mr Pemberton yesterday by officer Kennedy upon a charge of stealing a bucket—not the bucket the bucket, the old oaken bucket that hang in the well, but a pine receptacle of slops, emitting a strong odor of decayed culinary odds and ends. The savage pleaded innocence; claimed the bucket as his own—he had borrowed it, bought it, received it as a New Year's gift—had come into the possession of it somehow or another. The magistrate gave the prisoner the benefit of any or all of his explanations and let him go on his own recognizances.

MASONIC LITERARY INSTITUTE.—This Society are having their new and handsome hall in the Occidental Building remodelled and furnished. Considerable expense will be incurred in perfecting the improvements. The hall will be divided into two compartments, and the upper part overlooking the street, and containing a reading-room, a library, and other harbors, will be devoted to the purposes of a reading-room. The rear compartment will be divided in the centre by a green baize curtain. One-half of the room will be used as a library, and the remainder as a lecture-room, and on the occasion of a public entertainment the curtain may be rolled back and the room becomes a spacious hall. A number of new books have been added recently to the library; and to assist the Institute in paying for these and for the improvements in progress, the Amateurs from the Squadron, who so recently recently delighted our citizens with a performance, have volunteered a benefit. The New Westminster Amateur Dramatic Club have also consented to appear and add to the interest and success of the entertainment. The performance is fixed for Monday evening next. The appeal in behalf of this worthy institution should and will be liberally responded to.

THE "LIVE-FOR-EVER" PLANT.—For the benefit of the gentlemen lately engaged in a controversy as to the origin and peculiarities of the resurrection or live-forever plant, we produce the following paragraph, taken from an English periodical of high character. The paragraph would seem to strengthen the opinion expressed by us, and backed by one of our correspondents, that the plant is a native of Mexico, and that it is as yet a stranger to England. "The latest curiosity of Broadway, New York, is the so-called Mexican resurrection plant, which is exhibited and sold there. The plant is apparently dead, but it demands only water and soil before it revives, and grows as if it were a native of the tropics. It is a native of Southern Mexico, where, during the rainy season, it flourishes luxuriantly, but in the dry weather it dries and curls up, and is blown about by the wind. Each such specimen, however, when placed in a plate of water, bursts into new life."

FIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—King's farm at Cedar Hill was the scene yesterday of a frightful accident, which resulted in the death of a Cariboo miner named Peter Maguire. The unfortunate man was shooting with a double-barrelled gun. The weapon was capped with the hammers resting upon the caps—a too common and dangerous practice, and while Maguire was in the act of climbing a fence to obtain a shot at a grouse, one of the hammers came in contact with a board, and the gun went off, the whole charge entering his left temple and passing through his head. When raised he was still breathing and Dr Davis, Jr, was sent for, but pronounced the case hopeless—a portion of the brain having oozed out through the wound. At an early hour last evening we learned that Maguire had died and that his body had been brought into town. An inquest will be held on Monday.

SOBRIETY.—The congregation of St Andrew's Church have arranged to have a Soiree on Wednesday next in their handsome new church. The object of the Soiree is to assist the building fund, a structure creditable to themselves as it is ornamental to our city, has been erected by the congregation, and we are pleased to learn that their praiseworthy efforts are meeting with a hearty response from the public, and that tickets for the Soiree are being rapidly disposed of. Our Presbyterian friends are noted for good Soirees, but the ladies of the congregation are making efforts to eclipse all their previous successes. So all may anticipate the most pleasant of reunions. We would call attention to the advertisement in another column, which refers to the Soiree of the Queen Charlotte Coal Company after their long struggle, have at last got a positive assurance of success. Their engineer, Mr Landale, offers them coal at a price which will guarantee them a handsome profit. The report of suffering and hardship at the mine is considerably exaggerated, and in new country must be expected by workmen anywhere. Two hundred and thirty tons of anthracite coal lie at the mine ready to be taken to the beach, (which is about one mile distant from the mine-mouth), for shipment. The seam last worked is 448 feet above high water mark, and has an average width of four feet. The entire length of the tunnel is 919 feet,—180 feet cross cut, 92 feet of 'want,' the balance in solid coal.

THE OTTER CALLED FOR NEW WESTMINSTER yesterday at noon.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Sir James Douglas arrived from Nanaimo yesterday afternoon at half past four o'clock, bringing Rev E White, Mr Mings and several other passengers. H M Sparrowhawk was observed yesterday morning off Salt Spring Island engaged in target-practice. The vessel was seen to be firing before the gate of Friday Harbor.

Sale of the Wrecked Bark DELAWARE.—Mr McCrean yesterday sold the wrecked bark Delaware with all her rigging, etc., for \$675. Moody & Co., of New Westminster, were the purchasers. The cargo was sold for \$50. Moody & Co intend to get the bark off and repair her. Competent judges pronounce the purchase a bargain.

Mr Young sat as President of the Legislative Council yesterday. There are rumors extant that Mr Hankin has waited upon his Excellency and presented his despatches or credentials, and that the Governor, who has already telegraphed to London for instructions, has taken the matter into consideration.

FIRE ALARM.—At 9 o'clock last evening burning soot in a chimney in Troncon Alley caused an alarm. The engines were rolled and the Hook and Ladder Company, under the direction of Chief Kriemler, ascended to the roof of the building and subdued the fire, which at one time threatened serious consequences on account of the high wind.

The Lake Washington Coal Company at Seattle are preparing for active operations, and are building large barges to be used in bringing the coals from the vein to Seattle for shipment. The *Intelligencer* speaks hopefully of the prospects of the company.

GOOD FOR NANAIMO!—Nanaimo shipped 43,778 tons of coal in 1868—being 12,608 tons in excess of the total shipment in 1867. Is not this authentic statement very gratifying?

The schooner Mary Belle Roberts, laden with lumber from Siamp's mills, and bound for San Francisco, came down yesterday from Burrard Inlet.

An Act of Generosity Placed on the Right Shoulder.
Enrico Barrios, Colonist.—A paragraph from your paper copied into the *Pacific Tribune* of the 19th ult., states that Mrs Gant, a widow, was the recipient of a liberal donation at Port Gamble. The facts are these: Mrs Gant, a worthy

recently died there, had accumulated some property, and for forward some speculation had involved it; and at the time of his decease the amount becoming due, the mortgage was about to be foreclosed. Upon a representation of these facts the men working in the mill subscribed so liberally that the property was not only relieved, but a balance was left sufficient to give her a good start towards the maintenance of herself and family of eight children. I write this to correct the statement that the donation was made at Port Gamble, as we claim at Port Discovery not to be behind our sister mills in liberality, as several instances will show where men disabled have been cared for.

Port Discovery, Jan 1, 1869.

All Sorts of Paragraphs.
General Lebonof is likely to succeed Marshal Niel as French Minister of War.

An Austrian Prince and a Russian Baron, are visiting New York.

Lotteries annually put \$2,400,000 into the Italian Treasury.

M. de Reisse, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Bonn, died recently in his seventy-eighth year.

Many of the churches in England are restoring the orchestra to the musical portion of the service.

A New York journal thinks Grant, and the future Presidents should have \$100,000 a year.

Barcelona has so increased in population that the walls and fortifications are to be demolished to make room for buildings.

Cuba has 80,000 foreign whites, 790,000 natives of European extraction, and 100,000 negroes and Chinamen.

The man who came near bursting with rage was only prevented by having a hoop skirt thrown over him.

Marshal Mazzuchelli, the oldest veteran in the Austrian army, died recently in his ninety-fourth year.

A German Bible, printed in 1553, and a quilt one hundred and three years old, were exhibited at the Hollidaysburg (Pennsylvania) Fair.

The Bishop of London likes to hear a brass band perform in church.

The Spanish Provisional Government has withdrawn the \$300,000 annual grant to the seminaries for the education of priests—a monarchical privilege.

Derby Centre, a small New Hampshire village, contains twenty-nine marriageable widows, and only one widower, and he is nearly ninety years old.

The widow of Judge Draper, of Shattisbury, New Hampshire, unable to endure her loss, hanged herself to a bed post a few weeks since.

A citizen of St John (N. B.) rushed into print to deny the Paris crew's right to claim the championship of the world, until they beat an English professional four oared crew.

At the recent conference of influential women, in Stuttgart, it was declared necessary that women's toilettes be modified, to check extravagance, bad taste, and incessant change.

One night, recently, Eugene Anderson, a shot at his brother, the clerk of a Louisville hotel, because the latter would not give him a certain room in the house.

Fortunately the bullet only penetrated Anderson's clothing.

A Mendon (Vt.) clergyman accepted an invitation to a ball in that town, on condition that he be allowed to deliver a sermon, which he did, at midnight, to an audience of dancers, who listened attentively to his denunciation of that pastime.

John Meehan, a discharged soldier, fell in with an agreeable companion during a trip from Cairo to Cincinnati, recently, for which attention the "friend" rewarded himself by taking John's pocket book, containing \$240, while the latter sweetly slept, and then left before the dreamer awoke.

According to one of the Jewish authorities, Methuselah did not live so long as he might have done had he attended to good advice; for it is written that as he was sleeping on the ground when he was stricken in years, an angel came to him and told him that if he would rise up and build himself a house to lie in, he would live to five hundred years old. Methuselah made answer, that it was not worth while to take a house for so short a time. And so he died before he was a thousand years old.

FRED PAYNE has removed his Cheap Shaving Shop to the opposite side of Johns Street, just above the Miner's Saloon.

Editor BRITISH COLONIST.—In your report of the remarks made by Chief Justice Needham yesterday with reference to the money ordered by him to be paid into Court, in the above case, there are several statements which I cannot allow to remain unnoticed.

First, I may remark that the case was set down for trial last February, and on my counsel and witnesses going over to the Court, Mr Woods, the Registrar and defendant, stated in my presence and in that of other persons, that his Lordship had ordered the jury to be discharged, and would not try the case.

Secondly, Chief Justice Bagbie is at present in Victoria, and does not object to try this, or any other case which is brought before him in due course, and I have taken out a writ in his court for service on Mr Woods, and am at any time prepared to proceed with the trial in that court. With regard to the petition laid before the Legislative Council and which Chief Justice Needham voluntarily referred to and stigmatized as "as foul a slander as can well be put on paper against a Judge," I need scarcely reiterate that it contains nothing but the simple truth, and that most of the statements are supported by affidavits filed in his own court; and as it is probable this unfortunate case will shortly be made even more public than it is at present, I can afford to wait with patience the justification of my assertions. I may add that at no time was any Barrister except Mr Wood engaged by me in the case. Mr Needham may force on a trial, but I will not appear.

I remain, Sir,
Yours most respectfully,
J. C. NICHOLSON.

[In our report of the proceedings at the Supreme Court yesterday, we erroneously inserted the name of Mr Walkem instead of Walker.]

FRED PAYNE has removed his Cheap Shaving Shop to the opposite side of Johns Street, just above the Miner's Saloon.

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TOE, and are Manufacturers of
Dimiton's Stomach of the highest
quality. my 19 1 w

RAUD

MOTKEWALLAH, a Printer, was
Court, Calcutta, of counterfeiting

ABELL

BLACKWELL, London, and was
Mr Justice Pease to

OROUS IMPRISONMENT

of the same month, for

ERIOUS ARTICLES

tion of Messrs CROSS & BLACK
O was sentenced, by the Subur-
Barrat at Scoulday, to

OROUS IMPRISONMENT

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agreeable and popular remedy for

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in powder, containing the active
principle of the Fatness, by which the
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fants, supplying the elements for the

Wood Tar, of which T. M. & Son,
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perfect and economical substitute

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