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And Victoria Chronicle.

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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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gence. We do not fear but that this

section of the Colony will be well

care for in the coming session of the

United Legislature despite the seem-

ing disadvantage under which we are

placed. All that remains for us to

do is to see that the right class of

men are constituted the organs of

public sentiment in the legislative

hall to the exclusion of political

quacks and office seekers, we shall

then stand some chance of seeing the

affairs of the country conducted with

harmony in things essential; liberal-

ity in things not essential; and

energy in all things.

The following address from the

residents and property holders in the

Cowichan Valley was presented on Saturday

to the Governor:

May it please your Excellency:—We, the

undersigned inhabitants of Cowichan, beg

most respectfully to congratulate your

Excellency on the safe arrival of yourself

and Mrs Seymour in the Colony, and we

trust you may both be preserved in the uninter-

rupted enjoyment of perfect health, and that

your stay among us may ever be regarded

with pleasure and gratification.

As inhabitants of the most important agri-

cultural settlement in the Colony, we trust it

will suit your Excellency's convenience, at

an early date, to afford us an opportunity of

giving your Excellency a personal welcome,

from which we regret we are, by distance at

present precluded.

We also trust we may be permitted to

respectfully to express our hope that the

United Colony of British Columbia and Van-

couver Island may, under your Excellency,

so steadily increase in population and wealth

as may afford your Excellency the well-

merited approval of success, and give oc-

casions to all under your Excellency's Gov-

ernment to look back upon your administration

as the wisely directed commencement of

a career of healthy progress, and that this

earnest and sincere hope may be fully ac-

complished, we trust that the blessing of

God may attend upon all your counsels.

We have the honor to remain, &c.

(Signed by)

Wm. SHELTON BERGE, A. M.,

Minister of Cowichan,

And above 50 others.

His Excellency in reply to the address

said:

GENTLEMEN:—It is with great pleasure

that I receive the address presented by you

on behalf of certain inhabitants of Cowichan.

Mrs Seymour joins with me in cordial thanks

to the signers of it. I am sure your stay in

the Colony will be attended with pleasure to

us should prosperity return to these shores.

I shall have great pleasure in paying you

an early, but short visit, in anticipation of a

more lengthened one at a season of the year

less unpropitious to the labor of the farmer.

I sincerely trust that the hope you express

that the Colony may increase in population

and wealth may be realized. I know no

British dependency more favored by nature,

and we want but the establishment of regular

steam communication with the mother-coun-

try to induce many immigrants to avail

themselves of the vast resources of British

Columbia. I am not without hope that such

communication will be speedily established

with the assistance of the Imperial Govern-

ment.

Believing that the worst days of the Colony

are now passing, and that brighter prospects

are before us, I shall use every effort to make

permanent any improvement that may arise.

If I leave the Colony more prosperous than

I find it, I shall indeed have cause to look

back with satisfaction to the period of my

administration.

CONVERTS TO CATHOLICISM.—A recent

convert, writing to the Weekly Register, gives

the following statistics of conversions which

he now says are going on from the Anglican

to the Roman Church:—"At the church in

Farm-street the average for the last four

years has been one convert a week, received

into the church. At Dr Manning's former

church, at Bayswater, the average is about

three in a fortnight; at the Oratory, two a

week; at Islington, one in the fortnight; at

the Carmelite Church in Kensington, about

one a week; at Kingsland Chapel, near

Stoke Newington, two a week; and at

Upper Oglestreet, Marylebone-road (near

the famous St. Mary Magdalene's, high

church, of Mr Stuart), there are never less

than five or six Protestants for admission to

the church. Of these converts about a third

are from the upper and a third from the

professional classes, the rest are artisans and

their wives."

FROM PORTLAND.—The steamer Fideliter

Captain Eskine, arrived yesterday afternoon

having left Portland on Sunday, the 2d inst,

and been detained by stress of weather, one

day at Astoria, three days in Baker Bay,

and one day in Neah Bay. She brought 22

passengers, including eight soldiers for Fort

Steilacoom, W.T., and a large freight as per

marine report. We are indebted to Captain

Eskine for files of Portland papers. Pas-

sengers represent times as unusually dull

amongst the webfoot.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION had an audience

by appointment with His Excellency on

Saturday, at noon, and were graciously re-

ceived. The items submitted to His Excel-

lency's consideration were: The uncertain

position of the teachers and the urgency of

settling the same; the strong public feeling

in favor of Free Education; the moderate

annual expenditure per head for the education

of 440 scholars compared with that in San

Francisco for more than 10,000; and the claims

of the Board in the property belonging to the

schools in the public reserves. His Excel-

lency, in reply, declared himself favorable to

Free Education in the abstract; he

would give a written answer to the

Board in a few days, but said that his

intention was to refer the financial

question to the Board of Education.

THE LEADERSHIP should be paid for. The

question of whether the whole sys-

tem should be changed, as also that although

Gov. Kenned had notified that he would

guarantee payments for education, he had

left the establishment standing, and nobody

had been dismissed, whereas the reverse had

been the case with other departments. His

Excellency did not contradict these obser-

vations, and the Board withdrew. We are

glad to perceive from the result of this

interview that Mr Seymour is in favor of

Free Education.

SMASH UP AND SPILL OUT.—Yesterday

afternoon a horse attached to a buggy in

which were seated a man and woman ran

away on Yates street above Government and

dashed with break-neck speed to the corner,

where he ran against the awning of the

Gem Saloon, involving himself, the vehicle,

and the occupants in a common wreck.

The man, woman, and horse were slightly

injured and the vehicle smashed. The man

gathered himself up and, sloped, the weaker

vessel, stunned by the shock, was led to her

home by a sympathizing friend, and the

horse was conducted to his stable.

THE "SELECTIONS."—High Sheriff Adams

gives notice that on Thursday next, at

noon, he will proceed to hold a nomination

for two members to represent the City and

County of Esquimalt, and Victoria

for No. 1 District, and on the 17th inst, for

District No. 2, at the places named in the

advertisement hereunto referred to.

GOVERNOR DARLING'S CASE.—A London

correspondent writes:—Lord Carnarvon has

intimated that it is not his intention to re-

open the question of Governor Darling's recall

from the colony of Victoria, as decided by

his predecessor in office. Nothing remains,

therefore, for Sir Charles but to appeal for a

re-hearing of his case in Parliament; and

this, I am informed, is not improbable he

may do.

H. B. CO'S CLAIMS.—W. C. Johnson, at-

torney for the Government to take testimony

in the case of the "Hudson Bay Co. and

Puget Sound Agricultural Co. against the

United States, accompanied by Messrs

Thomas, Higgins, and Wark, who represent

the interests of these companies, arrived

yesterday from Puget Sound. They will be

engaged here for a few days in taking testi-

mony.—Oregonian.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—The schooner

Sarah, Captain Collins, 28 days from San

Francisco, ran into Esquimalt harbor yester-

day morning. The Sarah was out during

all the late severe weather and lost her sails.

She is bound on a prospecting tour for

oysters for the San Francisco market.

THE "EVENING STAR" DISASTER.—

Half the horrors attendant upon the loss of

the steamship Evening Star will never be

published. Here is a chapter, furnished by