THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
And Victoria Chronicle

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AGENTS-

S. D. Levi	Nanaimo, V. I
Clute & Ellerson	New Westminster
[illegible]	Quesnelle, B. C
do	[illegible]
do	Vanwinkle
do	Richfield
do	Barkervill
do	Cameron town
do	Clinton
L. P. Fisher	San Francisco
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G. Street	30 Cornhill, London

BEFORE these lines shall have met the eye of the reader, the old year with its griefs and joys, its disappointments and successes, will be no more, and its successor will have been ushered in with the customary manifestations of satisfaction and pleasure. The past has been a somewhat eventful year for our Colony. Since its dawn we have advanced steadily in the development of some of our most important industries and resources. The demand from abroad for most of our productions has doubled. Agriculture has increased fourfold, and we no longer depend for supplies of the most necessary articles of food upon a foreign country, The troublesome question of the seat of Government has been settled in a satisfactory manner to the Colony at large, and a fruitful source of heartburning and illfeeling having been set at rest forever, the people, who at one time were profoundly agitated on the subject, have settled down to legitimate pursuits, much to their own profit and the advancement of the country. The twelvemonth just gone has also witnessed a gratifying change in the policy of the Government. Heretofore, we have had frequent cause to hang our heads with shame when reflecting upon our sad political condition. We were accorded the high privilege of *paying* for the sudport of the inititutions of a Government over which we had not even nominal control. We could not *elect* even a Legislative Councillor, but were put through the wretched farce of selecting members whose acceptance as such was made dependent upon the approval of His Excellency. A cause for gratulation is found in the fact that this unjust anomaly has been finally abolished, and that the Executive Council is to be so far liberalized as to admit two popular advisers among the official members. These concessions, though not a great deal in themselves, nevertheless indicate that the Government has found the responsibility and odium attaching to its irresponsible form are too heavy for it to longer bear, and that it is desirous of dividing the responsibility with the people. Let us hope that the Government, with the dawn of the new year, has become sincerely repentant, and that it will resolve to make still further concessions by returning to the people the control over their own affairs and destinies of which they were illegally and unconstitutionally deprived.

The destruction by fire of Barkerville—our principal mining town—and the drought, which rendered gold mining operations for the latter part of the season a partial failure, are deplorable circumstances; but with ordinary care a recurrence of the first calamity may be averted; and we must be allowed to indulge in the earnest hope that the untoward circumstance which prevented a full measure of prosperity attending the labors of our gold miners may not again occur. Our brave little ciiy has recovered from its commercial depression. Credit and confidence are restored, and the prospects of our merchants, we think, are greatly improved

During the season two epidemics spread alarm throughout our midst and struck down several valuable members of society; but for the past month, we feel thankful to say, the diseases have entirely disappeared and our sanitary condition is greatly improved. With the adoption of a proper system of water supply and sewage little fear need be entertained of a malarious disease again obtaining a foothold in our midst, while the fear of a spread of contagious af[illegible] would be greatly lessened.

[illegible] from the consideration of our own immediate affairs, the heart of every loyalist must rejoice to know that the honor of the Mother Country has been upheld abroad, while at home the nation has made important advances in the arts and sciences and in the extension of her commercial and manufacturing interests. Ireland has been tranquilized, and the Conservative Ministry have made way for Liberal successors to whom this Colony may not appeal in vain for relief.

Citizens of the adjoining country who are resident among us will find cause for rejoicing in the fact that their troubles bid fair for a happy termination in the accession to the Presidential chair of their newly chosen chief; and in no part of the world will the assurance be received with greater satisfaction than here.

Taken "for all in all," while we do not think the Colony will receive any very large increase in its population during the present year, the improved aspect of its productive and commercial interests is so great that we experience a feeling of sincere pleasure in wishing our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Friday, Jan 1

Municipal Council.

Council met on Tuesday, His Worship the Mayor in the Chair.

Present—Councillors Allatt, Gibbs, Mc Kay, Russell, Allsop and Gerow.

After minutes of previous meeting had been read and adopted,

A communication was read from the Chief Engineer of the Victoria Fire Department pointing out the necessity of having the fire-cisterns cleaned out, the mud now occupying one-fourth of the space in each, which not only reduced the quantity of water available, but was highly detrimental to the working of the engines. A resolution was adopted by the Council expressive of the desire of the Council to have the necessary work done, and to memorialize His Excellency the Governor for permission to utilize the chain-gang for that purpose.

An account from Messrs Hibben & Co for $39 42 for stationary, referred to Finance Committee.

A communication was read from E Mallandaine notifying the Council on behalf of the Road Commissioners that a portion of statute labor, in conjunction with labor from Corporation and Lands and Works Department, would be applied to the improvement of Douglas street, from Johnson to the city limits. On motion, the consideration was deferred until the estimates for the current year shall have been passed.

The application of Edward Stamp, Esq, for a small piece of land contiguous to his premises whereon to build a stable, was referred to Street Committee for report.

The Council then went into committee of the whole, Councillor Allatt in the Chair, on the following by-laws, viz, No. 1, Footpaths; 2, Highways; 3, Highways (supplemental); 4, Defining duties of Fire Wardens; 5, Storage for Gunpowder; 6, Nuisances 7 Sanitary.

On the Committee rising and reporting by-laws complete, they were read a first time and passed by the Council, as a whole.

The Council then adjourned, subject to the call of the Mayor.

THE race yesterday between Harris' horse 'Royal Bill,' and Smith's horse 'John,' was a very one sided affair as it turned out. The horses at starting were both in first rate order, and John took the lead, which he maintained during the first half of the run. Royal Bill, however, resumed his 'Royal' prerogative and shot ahead of John at such a rate as to reach the winning post nearly fifty yards in advance. The race was for half a mile only; and very little money changed hands on the event. The concourse was not large.

IN consequence of the serious illness of a relative of the American Consul at this port, we are requested to state that that gentleman's family will not receive calls to-day.

We have been favored with a copy of the new Fence Ordinance, and considering the matter to be of public interest, we append a *resume*. The first clause provides for the erection of proper fences between adjoining tracts of lands. The second clause gives power to the Governor to divide the Colony into Districts, to be called Fence Districts, the Justice of the Peace in such district having power to appoint fence viewers. Fence viewers shall have power to decide what a lawful fence shall be, and to decide disputes between owners and occupiers of lands, in that respect. If any difficulty arises touching commencement or extent of fence, application to be made to Justice of Peace to appoint fence viewers. In case one of the parties is absent from the Colony, it shall be sufficient to put up a notice in a conspicuous place, within the land owned by the party notified. The fence viewers being satisfied that proper notice has been given, may proceed to decide all matters in dispute, in case future subdivision of land requires a new settlement of boundaries, another award may be obtained by proceeding as before the party at whose instance the award is made, to pay expenses. If, after an award, either of the parties neglect to erect or repair the portion of fence belonging to him within thirty days, then the adjoining land owner or occupier may proceed on to the said land without being liable for trespass, and repair or erect the fence so required to be repaired or erected, and recover the amount from the party so neglecting to repair or erect the fence as required. But the party making such alterations shall not be allowed to cut the necessary timber on the land of the defaulting owner or occupier. In the event of cattle straying into lands within a Fence District, unprotected by a fence defined as lawful, no trepass shall be deemed to have been committed, any law to the contrary notwithstanding. This Or[illegible] all not be applicable to any distri[illegible] application has been made to the [illegible] signed by at least two-thirds of [illegible]ts, and the Governor's assent pub[illegible] *Government Gazette*. If any [illegible]k into ground enclose[illegible] prop[illegible] owner of such animal to be liable [illegible] and if the trespass be re[illegible] neglect of owner of cattle, he sha[illegible] damage. If the animal be [illegible]ed after seven days notice, the o[illegible] premises shall be at liberty to sel[illegible], and repay himself all costs [illegible] If any dispute as to amount of damage, to be settled by Fence Viewers, whose decision shall be final.

TERRIFIC GALE—ARRIVAL OF THE ACTIVE—SHIP ASHORE.—About 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon a terrific gale sprang up from the southeast and continued with almost unexampled violence until 8 o'clock, when the wind suddenly died away and a perfect calm ensued. The mail-steamer Active ran into Esquimalt during the gale, having found it impossible to enter this harbor. Among her passengers were the newly-appointed Colonial Secretary Hankin and wife, Capt Irving, and T Moody and wife. By a strange oversight we received no list of passengers and are indebted to Wells, Fargo & Co. for late papers. During the gale the American bark Delaware, from San Francisco in ballast, was driven ashore near Fisgard Light, while attempting to enter Esquimalt harbor.

Later—The American barque Delaware, 250 tons burden, Capt J Robertson, from Sitka in ballast, bound for Port Townsend for a cargo of lumber, ran ashore at Fisguard Lighthouse where she lies on her beamends. It appears when approaching her destination a heavy gale sprung up from south-east, and for safety of the vessel and crew the Captain thought it prudent to make for Esquimalt harbor. A heavy squall struck the vessel when near the lighthouse and unfortunately the vessel did not answer her helm and went ashore as stated. It is not supposed likely that the barque is insured; she is about 20 years old.

WITH mingled regret and satisfaction we have to chronicle the early departure of Father Maloney, so long and so favorably known as connected with St Andrew's Cathedral, Humboldt Street. Regret that he is leaving our midst; satisfaction in knowing that he is appreciated by his fellow countrymen in San Francisco, where he has a unanimous call. The members of the congregation of St Andrew's have made up a purse containing a handsome sum, which was presented to him yesterday and appropriately acknowledged.

THE Leviathan sailed from New Westminster yesterday morning at 10:30, with guests for the Ball at Government House, which came off last evening. We did not hear of her arrival.

PUBLIC HEALTH ORD[illegible] This bill provides for the appointment of a Central Board of Health, composed of not more than five or less than three persons, who shall hold their sittings in Victoria, and shall have charge of all matters and things relating to the sanitary condition of the Colony. Local Boards may be appointed by the Governor, and the Corporation of Victoria and New Westminster are constituted *ex officio* Local Boards of Health for the respective cities. Boards of Health are authorized to appoint sanitary officers, and will have jurisdiction in all matters relating to drains, sewers, pig-styes, slaughter-houses, unwholesome food; noxious or offensive trades, epidemic, endemic, or contagious diseases or disorders, and all matters relating to Quarantine vessels and boats entering any port or river in the Colony; and any person interfering with the Board or its officers in any manner is made liable to a penalty not exceeding $250 for the first, and $500 for every succeeding offence.

LOVERS of good wine have now the means at hand to gratify their tastes. Mr W S S Green has opened a store for the sale o genuine wines. Families may be supplied with wines and liquors of the choicest quality imported expressly for Mr Green. We may mention, by the way, that Mr Green has had considereble experience in the wine trade, and has rare facilities for obtaining a choice article in Europe. Although the prices are very moderate, as will be seen by the advertisement, the wines are guaranteed pure.

CALIFORNIA CHAMPAGNE.—Last evening Mr W Farron, of the Alhambra Sample Room, sent our staff a bottle of Landsberger's California Champagne with which to wish the donor and all the world a Happy New Year. The wine was so good that we don't know who to thank the most heartily—the man who made the wine or the man who sent it in. We therefore thank both. California is treading closely upon the heels of France as a wine-producing country.

MR EMERY, the contractor, maintains a footbridge across the gap in James Bay bridge for the accommodation of pedestrians. The work of rebuilding is being carried on rapidly. The stringers and planking used are of the most substantial character, and the bridge, when completed, will be a model of strength if not of beauty.

THE BALL AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE last night was a brilliant affair. The spacious rooms were crowded with ladies and gentlemen, and dancing was maintained till the small hours. Governor and Mrs Seymour were assiduous in their attentions to guests, and the enjoyment was unbounded.

THE Great Pacific, one of the largest vessels that has entered San Francisco harbor, sailed thence a month since for Utsalady, but had not arrived up to last evening. When leaving below she ran a narrow escape of going on the rocks near to where a brig was recently lost.

LEECH RIVER.—Heavy rains have fallen at the diggings lately. A few miners remain at work and make about 'grub.' Two miners, with $800 in gold apiece for their summer's work, returned to town a few days ago. Very little snow has fallen this season.

THE TELEGRAPH.—The line to San Francisco worked for a short time yesterday, and a few private messages were received. In the evening, while we were expecting news despatches, it got out of order south of Olympia.

THE bark Prince Victor, Capt Jones, sailed yesterday evening from Royal Roads for Callao, with 223,000 feet of Burrard Inler lumber on board.

The "Live-Forever" Controversey Again.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST,—Your correspondent J H L is evidently a great botanist, and judging by the pyrotechnic display in his letter, in yesterday's issue, has lived much among Lycopods, until he has imbibed a considerable amount of the spores of *Lycopodium Clavatiom* and *Selago* or vegetable brimstone. I am sorry to have aroused his scientific wrath by my remarks on the *Semper viva* plant, and beg to assure him, had he put on a pair of spectacles and read accurately the first portion of my letter, he would have seen that my remarks in reference to this vegetable production were called forth by a paragraph in your Tuesday's issue, and not having seen the plant, were intended more in the nature of a question as to its name than as a decision on that point. Well, your correspondent comes forward boldly and courteously to set me right, and setting the rather difficult science of Crytogamic Botany at naught, he at once decides the true name of plant in question to be *Lycopodium Squamatum*! Is he quite sure? I am aware in 'Lycopodiaceæ' that a plant called *Selaginella Convoluta* or 'Rock Lily' is remarkable for its hydrometrical and medicinal properties, but I fail to recognize any Lycopod by its scientific name of *Squamatum*.

Having been so closely engaged in the study of *Lycopodales*, he evidently has overlooked the plain every-day *Crucifers*, more especially *Bursa-Bursa* or he would not have so egregiously committed himself respecting my curious little *Annual Anastatica* [illegible]. In replying to my [illegible] stated, after flowering, the singular little plant dropping its leaves and its branches and branchlets, becoming dry, hard and ligneous; rolls itself up into a ball and in this state is much like the so called *Lycopod* without flowers, and cannot be made to bloom by placing in water or by any other means. If J L H wishes for any further information respecting my little *Annual*, I shall be happy to give it him, together with a few first principles on vegetable Phiysiology, and as his ideas with respect to *Lycopodales* appear rather fossilized, he had better consult some modern authorities on those plants before rushing again into print.

H. M.

Don't Regret "The Good Old Times."

Mr Walter, M P, and proprietor of *The Times* newspaper, London, has just been talking in Berkshire of some things which used to happen under Lord Eldon and Lord Liverpool. A young mother, only nineteen, had her husband taken by a press-gang. She had two children, one at the breast. She was almost starving. Being in a draper's shop in Ludgate street, she took up a piece of calico. She was observed, and laid it down again. It was not certain that she meant to steal it, but judge and jury had no doubt of it, and she was hanged. They took her baby from her at the prison door, and she died at Tyburn. *

Another execution in those good old days was that of a lad for cutting down a cherry tree. In this case the judge—a 'hanging judge,' beyond all question—observed that he who would cut down a cherry tree would kill a man. Now all parties in these days agree to condemn atrocities such as these, of which it may be said, they made Government infamous. And those we have quoted are by no means solitary examples. We are only a few decades off the time when criminals were constantly hanged in half-dozens. One day, for instance, twelve prisoners were sentenced to death for stealing, and of these [illegible] of only thirteen. On another day in a similar batch there were two boys of [illegible] and fourteen hanged for stealing a few coppers. And what renders this retrospect still more horrible, a strange leniency, by comparison, was shown at this very time to men guilty of wife murder, eye gouging (which is *not* an American importation), and other brutal offenses. All parties can only vie with each other in expressing the utmost horror for deeds of this character.

*THE LULLABY OF A FEMALE CONVICT TO HER CHILD THE NIGHT PREVIOUS TO HER EXECUTION.

Sleep, ba y mine, enkerchieft on my bosom,
Thy cries they pierce against my bleeding breast;
Sleep, baby mine; not long thou'.t have a mother
To lull thee fondly in her arms to rest.

Baby, why dost thou keep this sad complaining?
Long from mine eyes have kindly slumbers fled;
Hush! hush my babe! the night is quickly waning,
And I would fain compose my aching head.

Poor wayward wretch! and who will heed thy weeping
When soon an outcast on the world thou'lt be?
Who then will soothe thee when thy mother's sleeping
In her low grave of shame and infamy?

Sleep, baby mine. To-morrow I must leave thee,
And I would snatch an interval of rest;
Sleep these last moments, ere the laws bereave thee,
For nevermore thou'lt press a mother's breast.

Sir Philip Sydney has a poem beginning. "Sleep, baby mine.

A CANDIDATE'S OPINIONS.—In the Far West, as elsewhere, there are legislators who are not too much in earnest. I recommend to some of our present candidates for British suffrages the following noble close to a Far Western election address: "Gentlemen," said the candidate, after having given his sentiments on the "constitootion," the "Monroe doctrine," and such like topics, "gentlemen," and he put his hand on the region of his heart, "these are my sentiments—the sentiments, gentlemen, of a honest man—ay, a honest *politician*, but, gentlemen and fellow citizens, ef they don't soot you *they ken be altered!*"—*All the Year Round.*

THE daughter of Professor Francke, of Gotingen, committed suicide, recently, by leaping into the sea from a steamer, on the passage from London to Hamburg.

CANDIES! CANDIES!—If you wish to get unadulterated Candies go to HARRY WALLER'S, Fort street; he has got a splendid assortment of English Confectionary, including Fig Paste, the only Store in town that has got it. Also, Gum Drops and Rock Candy, of a quality superior to any ever made by Confectioners in this Colony. They are free from all colouring and deleterious ingredients of any sort. Please call and examine before making your purchases, and judge for yourselves. *

WE should not suffer from a cough, which a few doses of AYERS CHERRY PECTORAL will cure. Time, comfort; health, are all saved by it;

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