

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1865.

NO. 1.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

EVERY MORNING.

(Sundays Excepted, AT VICTORIA, V. I.)

TERMS:

One Year, (in advance).....\$10 00
Six Months, do.....6 00
Three Months, do.....3 60
Single Copies,.....10 cents.
Subscribers in Victoria will be supplied by the carriers for 25 cents a week.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Published every Tuesday morning.

One Year, (in advance).....\$6 00
Six Months, do.....4 00
Three Months, do.....2 50
Single Copies,.....25 cents.

John Mackin, - - - - - Nanaimo
Clarkson & Co., - - - - - New Westminster
Barnard's Express, - - - - - Quesnelle, B. C.
" " " " - - - - - Lytton
" " " " - - - - - Vancouver
" " " " - - - - - Barkerville
" " " " - - - - - Camerontown
" " " " - - - - - Clinton
L. P. Fisher, - - - - - San Francisco
F. Algar, - - - - - Clement's Lane, London
G. Street, - - - - - 30 Cornhill, London

INDIAN MURDERS.

The narrative published in another column, of the seizure of the schooner Royal Charlie and murder of the crew, brings up again more forcibly than ever the question of whiskey selling to the natives. It is quite clear from the memoranda of the Labouchere as well as from the incidents connected with the Royal Charlie, that the Indians along the North-west coast, despite Vancouver Island and British Columbia law, are plentifully supplied with intoxicating liquors. This is a fact the danger of which we cannot well exaggerate. Not only the whole trade with the Northern Indians is jeopardized, but the two colonies are liable to be plunged at any moment into an Indian war. The injury to the fur trade would be a misfortune of a very serious character. Next to gold, furs and skins are the principal exports of the two colonies. If we take the number of men who are employed directly and indirectly by the Hudson Bay Company, in this business along the coast, and the number of men similarly engaged on their own accounts in trade and agriculture, we shall find that no insignificant population are making their livelihood out of a branch of trade that is liable at any time, by the indiscriminate supply of ardent liquors, to be suddenly disrupted. If we come to the more serious matter of a general war with the Indians along the coast, liable to be created by the same means, we are brought to consider a calamity that would almost hopelessly ruin the prospects of both colonies. The question with the people and governments of Vancouver Island and British Columbia is to take steps while there is yet time to ward off these more than problematical evils of the future. It would seem that many of the vessels employed in the Indian trade take brandy or whiskey on board as a cheaper medium to transfer in exchange for Indian furs than either blankets, trinkets, or money. Even the ill-fated captain of the Royal Charlie employed it as the most effective means to induce some Indians on the coast to give the natives on the fishing stations notice of his arrival. When these latter Indians arrived it appeared that they were under the influence of ardent spirits, and to that fact and it alone is to be attributed probably the murder of the Royal Charlie's crew. In the memoranda of the Labouchere we are also told that "the Indians are very troublesome at Fort Simpson, on account of there being so much liquor in the camp," and that the Nanaimo Packet was compelled to leave the Tongas coast very summarily, on account of the threatening attitude of the natives.

There is but one remedy for this disgraceful and dangerous state of things and that is a law that will enable the authorities to seize liquor wherever it may be found—in sailing craft along the coast or in the vicinity of Indian encampments, to confiscate every vessel engaged in the Indian trade that have more ardent spirits than a certain quantity that might reasonably be allowed to the crew, and to punish with flogging if necessary every person caught in wilfully supplying the natives directly or indirectly with intoxicating liquors. This trade must be suppressed at all hazards; the whiskey-selling ruffians and their Victoria accessories must be treated, if the nefarious traffic cannot be otherwise put down, as English law treats the garrotter. We cannot afford to have the lives of legitimate traders sacrificed nor our prison filled with Indian whiskey sellers, and it will be found that a dozen or two lashes will be the most effectual preventive in the one instance as well as the most inexpensive mode of punishment in the other. If this is not done we shall have a larger crop every year

of these abandoned rascals and a larger crop of murders. It will be unsafe for anything but a gunboat to proceed up North and the fur trade will be brought to a summary termination.

The duty of the Government is to protect the white man as well as the Indian; but it is not the slightest use sending up gunboats to terrify the native tribes, if we allow almost in their wake the vendor of ardent spirits. All the wholesome lessons that physical as well as moral power can teach, are obliterated at the first sight of the brandy bottle. It is true that in many cases retributive justice overtakes the men who deal out the intoxicating draught, and the whiskey seller is slain by the savage who has got drunk on the liquor supplied him; but the

victims. Under any circumstances the sooner most stringent measures are adopted against carrying whisky up North, the sooner an unscrupulous gang of scoundrels will be rooted out and the Indian population brought to feel the benefits instead of the injuries of the white man's civilization.

ARRIVAL OF THE LABOUCHERE.

Another Massacre by Indians

FOUR WHITE MEN KILLED.

The Schooner Royal Charlie Captured.

The H. B. Company's steamer Labouchere, Captain Lewis, arrived from her usual trading voyage to the North on Saturday. She brings intelligence of the murder by the Kake Indians (a powerful tribe in the Russian territory, about 80 miles north of Stekin River,) of Captain Thomas Goin and three white men belonging to the schooner Royal Charlie. The first intimation of this sad occurrence was published in the Colonist of October 26th, and was furnished by a correspondent on board the Telegraph Company's ship Golden Gate, but the details were wanting. Captain Lewis gives the following account of the affair which he collected from two Indian survivors. The three other men killed were John Cashman a seaman belonging to Ireland;—Abbott, formerly belonging to some hotel on Yates Street, and a man called Tom, the trader, who came to this colony from Australia. The Royal Charlie was on a trading expedition, and was supposed to be engaged in whiskey traffic. The two last named came down with the Labouchere on her last voyage and proceeded up again shortly afterwards on the schooner. At Fort Simpson the party were warned by the Russian agent against carrying on an illegal trade in the Russian Territory.

On our way down from our most northern post, we heard that a schooner had been taken and all hands murdered by the Kake Indians; on the 7th of October we arrived at Kake; on the 10th, after we had finished trading, we collected all the Chiefs together and asked them if it was true that they had murdered four men on board the Royal Charlie; they confessed to it immediately but said the actual murderers were not there, but at their village about thirty miles off. From what we could glean from them they all said that Tom Goin fired the first shot and wounded one of the Indians, and that the Indians were all half drunk at the time of the massacre; they also told us that the Stekin and Bella Bella boys that were working on board were saved and had gone to Stekin.

On our arrival at Stekin the Bella Bella boy who was made a slave of by the Stekins, came on board, and from him we got the following information:

The schooner Royal Charlie was two days trading at Kake, and on her arrival there the captain dispatched three Indians away to fetch the others from their fishing stations, and promised to pay them half a gallon of whiskey each. On the third day three small canoes came alongside at daylight and appeared to be quite friendly. After breakfast the schooner got under another weigh with the intention of going to another anchorage, when a large canoe came off, the Indians all armed and half drunk. On their coming alongside five Indians came on board all apparently unarmed; the chief immediately cut the halyards of the mainsail with a large dagger and let the sail come down. Tom Goin, who was steering, immediately asked Tom the trader (name unknown) who was on deck with the rest, for his pistol, on getting which he fired at the Indian who cut the halyards, and wounded him in the wrist; the Indian then ran his knife through him; he (Tom) then took his revolver and struck the Indian on the head and also kicked him, then called out to John Cashman to bring up his gun and shoot him. The same Indian then stabbed Tom a second time and killed him. John Cashman then immediately killed the Indian. The four other Indians on seeing

their chief killed went into their canoe, got their guns and fired, killing Tom the trader, John Cashman, and wounding the other man, Abbott, who with the assistance of the two Indian boys belonging to the schooner, got into the boat and went away. Abbott bled to death towards the evening and was landed on the beach by the boys, they then proceeded on to Stekin. The Bella Bella boy was told by the Stekin after the occurrence that before the large canoe came alongside the chief was heard to say that it was not good for the schooner to go to Victoria; let us kill the whites and take the schooner.

Such are the particulars we glean from the Bella Bella Indian. It appears that he did not see the other Indian killed and wounded, he was so scared that he ran below. The Indians intended to kill him

saying he belonged to Tongas. The two days that they were trading the boy says the Indians appeared friendly.

Choquette gleaned the following particulars from the Stekin Indian up the river; he says that when the Indians first came on deck, the chief stabbed John Cashman, when Tommy the trader asked below for his revolver, and immediately fired at the chief, but only wounded him; the Indian then ran at him and stabbed him but did not kill him, and the other Indians made a rush at him, when he fired two more shots but only wounded them; they stabbed him again on which he fell and they supposed him to be dead; during that time the other white men tried to get on deck but were killed instantly on showing themselves. The trader then got up and fired into the canoe killing an Indian dead and wounding another, upon which the Indians came on deck and finished him. The two Indian boys then got into the boat and Abbott followed them, but was shot through the back and bled to death soon after.

MEMORANDA.

The Labouchere arrived at Stekin on Oct. 13, six white men arrived from the river the day after to buy provisions, they all, with the exception of three, intended to winter up the river; before leaving Stekin after a great deal of talk and trouble, we purchased the Bella-Bella boy that was saved from the schooner and made a slave of. On Oct. 22, anchored at Fort Simpson, found the Nanaimo Packet, and Moses Phillips, lying there; they reported having a disturbance with the Tongas Indians, and that they had to leave. The Indians are very troublesome in Fort Simpson on account of their being so much liquor in the camp. Arrived at Bella Goola on Oct. 31, all quiet there; the two traders that were up the river, by the advice of Mr. Moss have removed to the mouth. On Nov. 3 anchored at Fort Rupert, passed a schooner supposed to be the Nonpariel bound south in Goletas channel, the sloop Native came into the harbor and left the next day. Nov. 8, about four miles to the southward of Cape Mudge, passed the gunboat Forward bound north. We have experienced a very wet summer; the northern Indians have behaved the same as usual (which is not saying much for them) with the exception of the Tacos where we again had trouble. The body of Mr. Ogilvie is on board. We have four passengers from Stekin, and two from Fort Simpson.

APPEALING UNTO CESAR.—Under this head we find the following in our New Westminster contemporary of Saturday: "Our attention has just been drawn to a paragraph in the Victoria Chronicle, wherein it is stated that 'Mr. Wallace, of the Cariboo Sentinel, has commenced an action for libel against the proprietors of the British Columbian.' If Mr. Wallace is really so completely lost to all sense of common professional etiquette as to seek to drag us into a court of law, under the circumstances, we have no desire to say anything calculated to prejudice his case; but in the absence of any legal proceedings having developed themselves here we are bound to consider the item in the Chronicle as an idle canard. It is hardly possible that a man who had been engaged for a whole season in libelling not only ourselves but the Government of the colony and the people of New Westminster—whose every issue was a standing libel, in fact, should now adopt a course so cowardly and so utterly at variance with the usages of the profession, of which we cannot say he was a very bright ornament. Why, there is something superlatively ludicrous in the very idea of libelling the late Cariboo Sentinel! The very mission of that paper was to libel us and the Government, and every man who opposed the political designs of its masters; and because we have acted on the defensive, and have succeeded in driving the scurrilous sheet from the colony, will its humiliated and discomfited editor, writing under the merited flagellations we felt it a duty, as public journalists, to administer, now go snivelling to a court of law for that satisfaction which he lacked the pluck or ability to extort in a legitimate way? If such be the case, if Mr. Wallace is really in earnest in asking twelve intelligent men to award him the wages of his iniquity and consummate folly, we have only to say, in the words of Macbeth, "Lay on, Macduff; And damn'd be he that first cries, Hold, enough!"

Our Cariboo Letter.

[From our regular Correspondent.]

FORT YALE, Nov. 9.

The British Columbian and Old Dominion Creek.

Though I feel no inclination whatever to run tilt against the British Columbian, I cannot overlook some statements made in its issues of the 1st and 4th inst., in regard to Old Dominion Creek, as such statements seem to impugn the veracity of facts advanced by me in a former letter.

In its issue of the 1st inst. that paper says: "Notwithstanding the assertion made by a correspondent of the British Columbian that this creek has proved a failure, the greatest confidence is felt in it." May I ask the well informed editor, by whom is this confidence felt? Is it by people who never visited Old Dominion Creek? for all those who went there on a prospecting tour came back, as I have done, entirely disappointed in their expectations.

In a letter of mine, bearing date the 17th ult.

The editor of the British Columbian goes on to say: "There is said to be extensive shallow diggings on this and neighboring creeks, which will pay good wages." It would be most desirable, however, that he should be a little more explicit in his statements, and make public the names of the parties who speak thus, and not dwell on generalities as he does.

The Columbian adds: "Several parties are wintering there, and it is asserted by Mr. Jennings and other miners, who came down on Monday, that they would not be surprised if these new diggings should give remunerative employment to as large a population as Williams Creek next season." No party whatever is wintering on Old Dominion or neighboring creeks, except Vaughn & Co., who are prospecting on North Star Creek.

As for Mr. Jennings, whose name is brought forward, I am pretty well informed that he never visited Old Dominion or neighboring creeks, and I must reasonably infer that such must be the case with other miners alluded to as long as their names are not made public.

Besides, Mr. Jennings and other miners spoken of by the Columbian give their personal opinion, as a matter of course, without substantiating it with one single material fact, and I would be just as well warranted in saying that I should not be surprised were there to exist some rich gold deposits in the mountains of the moon or in the Planet Venus.

To facts stated by me in a previous letter also the Columbian answers by generalities which prove nothing, not giving one single tangible fact in support of its statements.

In the issue of the 4th inst., the Columbian says: "From Mr. D. Ramage, who arrived from Williams Creek yesterday, we glean the following: Mr. Hilton, who had returned from Old Dominion, speaks very highly of that region, and expressed confidence that a large breadth of ground will pay from moderate to good wages."

Out of an old story the Columbian tries to make a new one. The above statement is calculated to lead people to the belief that the news brought down by Mr. D. Ramage is fresh, which is not the case. Mr. D. Ramage, who by the by, I set down as a gentleman incapable of telling wittingly an untruth though he may be liable to be taken in as well as anybody else, started from the creek on the 19th ult., while Mr. Hilton was back on the 12th of October at Williams Creek where the news brought down by him did not create any excitement that I know of as I stated at the time. The news was thus summed up by the Cariboo Sentinel of the 14th of October: "Mr. Hilton, of the Aurora claim, returned on Thursday from Old Dominion Creek and gives it as his opinion that wages can be made on it. He left three men provided with provisions to sink a shaft and test the place thoroughly. Mr. Hilton is an old Cariboo pioneer miner and is cautious in expressing an opinion about the new creek until it has been properly prospected."

Now the three men left by Mr. Hilton on "Old Dominion" creek on the 14th or 15th ultimo, after having sunk a shaft 19 feet deep, without striking anything, and they had no disposition whatever to revisit "Old Dominion" creek, having no faith in the general features of the country as a gold bearing field. Mr. Hard Curry, one of the Government party, told me that he did not think anything of "Old Dominion" and neighboring creeks, but had strong hopes that good diggings might be found ultimately on the other side of Fraser river. Mr. Martin Duncan, another member of the Government exploring party, talked to me in the same way in regard to that section of the country. Mr. Perrin expressed his opinion to the same effect in conversation with a friend of mine. Such are the plain facts. I leave it now to the public to decide whether the British Columbian is justified or not in trying to create an undue excitement about "Old Dominion" and the neighboring creeks.

There are a class of people who are of opinion that the best mode to get the country prospected is to raise excitement, but this is a very poor way of managing matters. My fourteen years' experience as a miner has fully convinced me that to "wild excitement" succeeds general depression, and that the individuals most likely to be excited are, generally speaking, poor prospectors, yielding as easily to despondency as to buoyant hopes.

GENERAL NEWS.

FOUL MURDER.—A man by the name of John Morgan, a Scotchman by birth, from 35 to 40 years of age, was foully murdered on the 24th ult., five miles below Soda creek, within thirty yards of the wagon road, near a small spring where he had been cooking his breakfast. His body was found a week ago yesterday in the bushes. Deceased was in the employ of the Telegraph Company.—He started from the camp on his way down on the morning of the 24th ult. Ten or fifteen

minutes after he had taken his departure, two other men, James Petersen and Philip Farnson, started from the same camp. I traveled with the latter individual from Siska Flat to Fort Yale. On our arrival at the latter place Farnson was arrested on suspicion by Constable Coffee, and brought up before the magistrate, Judge Sanders, who, after having heard the evidence of Mr. McClure, surveying engineer of the Telegraph Co., committed Farnson to jail for remand. The accused is a Canadian by birth, only 22 or 23 years of age, with rather timid, unsteady looks.—The deceased, who had about him from \$200 to \$300 and a gold watch, was shot with fowl shot through the side and ransacked of everything. His head was out with a hatchet, and presented a fearful appearance. Petersen has not been heard of since. The weapon was found lying by his side with human hair on the blade.

To an H.M.S.—On the 6th instant Judge Beebe passed sentence of death at Lytton

of their countrymen at Lillooet some time ago, and on a Siwash who had killed another Indian at Fort Kamloops.

RACES.—Mr. Cornwall, one of the largest landed proprietors in the country, purposes establishing spring and fall races in British Columbia to encourage the breeding of horses. One hundred dollars have been raised by his efforts among neighbors, he having himself contributed the largest portion of the sum. The first race is to take place on the 8th inst. at his own ranch, 24 miles from Spence's bridge, on the Thompson road. Six horses are already entered, the entrance money of \$25 is to be added to the \$100 to constitute the prize of the winner. The second best is to save his stake. One-mile heats. After the principal race a Cayoose race is to take place, stake \$5, 400 yards heat. To wind up with several other races. I have the implicit promise of Cornwall's partner that the readers of the Colonist shall be supplied with particulars of the races.

THE TELEGRAPH WIRES DOWN.—The telegraph wire was cut one day last week and I believe is so yet between Eddie's and Murphy's ranches at the 136 mile post, if my memory serves me right.

WILLIAMS CREEK.

From Mr. Todd, merchant, of Barkerville, who left the Creek on the 4th inst., and whose statements can entirely be depended on, I sum up the following items:

The St. Andrew Tunnel Co., behind the Bank of British Columbia, were reported to have struck a good prospect on the bed rock.

The Wake up Jake Company cleaned up, on 29th ult., 166 ozs. and odd dollars for 2 1/2 days' work.

The Aurora incline had partly given away.

The Saw Mill Company were taking out from 50 to 60 ozs. daily.

The Aurora incline had partly given away from 1 to 1 1/2 ozs. a day to the hand in an upper stratum.

The Oram Company were averaging about the same.

The Raby Company were doing as well as usual.

The most part of the companies had ceased working for the season. Things on the creek had a dull appearance. The snow had melted away.

The prices of goods were unchanged, except gum boots, which had advanced to \$20 per pair.

B. D.

ON BOARD THE "ENTERPRISE,"

November 11.

SHAMEFUL.—I am told by Mr. J. G. Evans, who has in charge 2200 lbs. of quartz from the Williams Creek Silver and Gold Quartz Mining Company, which is to be sent down to be assayed in San Francisco, that he had a good deal of trouble with the authorities at New Westminster. He was not allowed to have the quartz shipped until he had given a written pledge that he would pay the Gold Export Tax according to the assay. Does the Government sanction such proceedings? If so, it is a shame, for everything at this juncture ought to be done to encourage people to prospect our quartz lodes, instead of putting difficulties in their way. One official, I am happy to state, did all in his power to smooth difficulties, and I tender him the thanks of miners.

Mr. Evans wishes me to state that Capt. Fleming, of the steamer Lillooet, brought down the quartz free of charge from Fort Yale to New Westminster. What a contrast to the conduct of the Government!

B. D.

DISASTROUS FLOOD AT LEECH RIVER.—

A reliable authority, writing yesterday from Kennedy Flat, Leech river, to a friend in this city, gives the following: "Great excitement at Leech this morning. The water is now much higher than it has ever been seen since the river was first discovered. The flumes, sluice-boxes, pumps, wheels, and everything on the river are all swept down as clean as a new broom could sweep a floor, without any exception. The ditch is now the only thing to keep the miners here, as no one will ever attempt the river again this season. I send these few lines to you in haste; perhaps you will please make them public in the Colonist. I am rejoiced to hear that the Leech River Ditch Company is in progress."

DIARIES FOR 1866.—

Messrs. Hibben & Carswell, of Yates street, have placed upon our desk a specimen of their very neat and useful diaries for 1866, just received and for sale at their stationery establishment. The diary will form a most useful addendum to every merchant and trader's desk, containing, besides adequate space for daily memoranda throughout the year, a calendar and several valuable tables for reference.