

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1865.

NO. 41.

## THE BRITISH COLONIST

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### AGENTS

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### CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

At present, when the immigration returns show such a disproportionate difference in the number of persons entering the United States and the number entering the North American provinces, it is not uninteresting to examine the statistical tables furnished by some of the Canadian papers in reference to the increase of the respective populations during the last decade. It appears that the population of the United States in 1850 was 23,191,876, and in 1860 31,443,322, showing an increase of 35.58 per cent. From 1852 till 1861—a year short of the United States term—the population of Upper Canada had increased from 952,004 to 1,396,091, giving the rate of 46.65 per cent, in nine years, or, as is stated, 53.01 per cent. for the ten years. The population of Lower Canada had increased during the nine years from 890,261 to 1,110,664, showing an increase during ten years of 27.88 per cent. The tables would, therefore indicate that Upper Canada had beaten the United States by 53 to 35, and the United States had beaten Lower Canada by 35 to 27. The increase of both the Canadas collectively was 40.87 per cent., showing a gain over the neighboring States of 5 per cent. in the ten years. This is a result that is certainly astonishing, and considering how much greater in proportion to the respective populations has been the influx of immigrants to the United States, must be put down to internal rather than external causes. In the first place the number of births is greater in proportion in Canada than in the States, and in the second longevity seems to be more appreciated and more general in the British province. With all the drawbacks Canada is laboring under with regard to immigration, it is therefore evident that her native population is more productive than that of the Republic. When we couple with this the fact that the mortality of the inhabitants is at a much lower figure than the mortality of the people of the United States—that the process of decay goes on with much greater rapidity in the latter living republic—some consolation is afforded in view of the immigration loss, and a substantial set-off is presented against the States' monopoly of the emigrants from the United Kingdom.

In our Saturday's issue we alluded to a statement in the London Morning Post that Canada, by the arrangements entered into by the colonial delegates and the Imperial authorities, was to acquire full control over the great Northwest. On what terms the Hudson Bay Company's claims were to be settled was not hinted at, but we see a good deal of dissatisfaction evinced in the matter by a portion of the Canadian press. It appears that Mr. Cardwell is, no more than his predecessors, free from a certain amount of Hudson's Bay Company influence. The "vested interests" always put forward by the Company, and always repudiated by Canada, have been recognised by Her Majesty's Government, but what amount Canada will be asked to quiet the Company's claims to the vast territory at present in their possession, is not stated. Whatever decision may be ultimately arrived at, we feel certain the Canadian people will vote but little for the settlement of any such claim. That the country between Canada and the Rocky Mountains should seem in the eyes of the colonists very desirable to possess, we cannot doubt, but that Canada should be called to pay the enormous sum demanded by the Company we can scarcely believe. The Toronto Globe, which on this subject speaks the language of the delegates, who are roundly abused by the opposition press for their want of firmness, in not resisting the claims, ends an article on the

subject as follows:—"The unfortunate determination of the authorities in England to maintain the validity of the Hudson's Bay claim, in no way affects our anxiety for the opening up of the North-west territory. We still deem it as much as ever a question of the most vital importance. In no small degree the future greatness and prosperity of British North America depend upon the opening up of the North-west. Confederation would lose half its value if it were not to include an early date the annexation of the North-west. The vested rights of the company being recognised, it becomes a practical question for us, what are the best terms upon which the Hudson's Bay territory can be obtained? The delegates to England will probably be able to give more information on that point to Parliament than has hitherto been afforded." After all, however, it would appear that although Mr. Cardwell believed in the "vested interests," it was the delegates' proposition to take over the North-west territory and negotiate with the Company for the "termination of their rights." "On the fourth point—the subject of the North-west territory"—says the despatch of the Secretary for the Colonies to Governor Monck, "the Canadian Ministers desired that that territory should be made over to Canada, and undertaken to negotiate with the Hudson Bay Company for the termination of their rights, on condition that the indemnity, if any, should be paid by a loan to be raised by Canada under the Imperial guarantee. With the sanction of the Cabinet we assented to these proposals, undertaking that if the negotiation should be successful we, on the part of the Crown, being satisfied that the amount of the indemnity was reasonable, and the security sufficient, would apply to the Imperial Parliament to sanction the arrangement and to guarantee the amount."

### SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Our Honolulu exchanges are to July 8th. That's the way the sugar goes.—The Albany for Victoria, and the Cambridge for Portland, both of which vessels sailed on Saturday last, June 24th, carried off between them about 360 tons of our best sugars, besides some 22,000 gallons of molasses, making altogether an export of island produce amounting to \$55,126 56 in value.—Hawaitian Gazette.

ACCIDENT ON THE FOURTH.—While a salute was being fired on board Captain Hanham's yacht *Themis*, on Tuesday, one of the guns went off prematurely, severely injuring one of the seamen, William Burman, by name. All the fingers on the right hand except the index were amputated. We learn that the American residents, with characteristic good feeling, are making up a sum of money for the British tar who was thus mutilated while doing honor to their country's natal day.—*Id.*

AN ENGLISHMAN ON THE FOURTH.—At the celebration of the Fourth of July at Honolulu, W. L. Green, Esq., Acting British Consul, was called on for a speech. He commenced by referring to the novelty of his position, in that he, a British subject, and a representative of his nation, was called to address an American assembly on the anniversary of the day when the colonies severed the political connections that bound them to the mother country. After adverting to their history since that time, and complimenting the Americans on the manner in which they had put down the gigantic rebellion, the orator spoke of the diplomatic correspondence now going on between the United States and Great Britain in relation to the depredations of British built pirates, and the chances for war between the two countries. When we consider the occasion, we must conclude that the speaker was a great wag, and allow that his discourse was an extremely good thing. He concluded his speech as follows:—"I begin to think that war is not such a dreadful thing after all. Perhaps a war between England and the United States may not be such a bad thing—who knows? It may do some of us good—it may do you good—or it may do us good—we may trash each other into mutual respect, and we may then be better friends than ever we were; this alone would be a good result. Of one thing I, as an Englishman, should feel, and do feel proud and happy, and that is that the war between England and the United States (if war there is to be) has been deferred—has been delayed till to-day—because now, with your internal dissensions put down—with a splendid army and navy in the highest state of discipline—with tried leaders, taught by experience, and confident from success—there would be some credit in giving you a good whipping!"—*Oregonian.*

SPORTING.—The Ascot cup has been won by Ely, the celebrated French mare Fille de l'Air being nowhere. The first race was a dead heat between Ely and Lord Glasgow's General Peel, Zephyr being third. In the deciding heat Fordham made an effort to call the General home, but he refused, and Ely went in easily by twelve lengths. The Oaks was won by Regalia, a promising mare bred by Mr. Cookson, of Haymarket, the trainer of Stockwell, whose stock, Kettledrum and Incomest, have been winners of the Derby and Oaks. Eighteen horses ran, Regalia winning easily by six lengths from Wild Agnes, Zephyr third, Cobweb, White Duck, La Fortune, Siberia (the favorite) next. Time, 2.51, or six seconds less than the Derby. The value of the stakes was £5225. Regalia will meet the noted French horse Gladiateur at Doncaster.

## Return of the "Otter."

### Landing of Prospectors at Bear River.

### MINING REGULATIONS.

### TOWN SITE LAID OUT.

The steamer *Otter*, Captain Swanson, arrived Wednesday night, about eight o'clock, from Bedwell Sound. Immediately after her whistle was heard the Hudson's Bay Company's wharf was soon crowded with persons anxious to hear the latest intelligence from the new diggings.

Battle's party having in obedience to their instructions moved further north towards Nootka, nothing further was heard regarding their movements, and the miners appear to have been somewhat in a fix for guides to convey them to the gold field.

The proceedings of the party are fully narrated in the accompanying letters from our correspondents, which will be read with interest:

Steamer *Otter*, Clayoquot Sound,  
August 15th, 1865, noon.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST, SIR.—Leaving Victoria at 1:30 yesterday, we had a pleasant run down the Straits and up to the mouth of Bear River, off which we anchored at 10 o'clock this morning.

During the "sma' hours" an incident occurred which occasioned a slight alarm at first, but afterwards turned to merriment. As there were about 118 white passengers, besides Indians, all the cabin berths and the floor were closely packed, and just as all were in the full enjoyment of their second snooze, an arm chair, which had been laid on top of the table to make room, was thrown off by the motion of the boat, and alighted rather heavily on the nasal appendage of one of the sleepers, to his infinite disgust and astonishment. The startled devotee of Morpheus gave a loud yell, which awoke some dozen others, who instantly shouted "Fire!" This instantly aroused the rest, and a rush to the doors was the consequence. Your humble correspondent, half asleep, started bolt upright and shouted, "Quiet, boys, quiet! It is only a man tumbled out of his berth!" This cooled them a little; and as soon as the real cause was discovered, all joined in a hearty laugh at the expense of the alarmist.

The entrance to Clayoquot Sound is readily distinguished by three small mountains which stand out from the Range quite isolated. The two southern ones are left on the right hand in entering; the northern most on the left. From the entrance, which we passed at 6:45, a.m., to Bear River is about 15 miles, the Sound narrowing from three miles to one half a mile, and terminating in a circular basin three-quarters of a mile in diameter, and almost completely shut in by mountains. The Sound is full of islands, and numerous inlets were noticeable as we passed.

The shores and islands are rocky and precipitous, and are wooded to the water's edge. The scenery is grand and picturesque, but as it resembles the east coast of the island, which is well known, I need not describe it.

The passengers have all been landed at an old Indian rancherie at the mouth of the river, and the freight is now being taken ashore.

It is perhaps a matter of regret that Mr. McCausland had no orders to pilot the miners up to the diggings. His business takes him up the coast, and of course he does not feel justified in ascending the river with the miners without orders. The general feeling is that he is some other competent guide should have been sent through with the first party. It is hardly right that a body of men should have been left just when the real difficulty begins, not one of whom knows the least thing about the country, when the cost of sending a guide would be so small, and where Indian guides are not available.

There are no Indians here yet, but several canoes were passed at the entrance to the Sound, and are expected here in the afternoon.

It is not likely a start will be made up river until to-morrow morning.

The utmost pleasantness and good feeling existed amongst the passengers, and all are delighted with the urbane and obliging manner in which they were treated by Captain Swanson and his first officer.

Next time I hope to give you some news from the diggings.

Yours, etc., BETA.

MOUTH OF BEAR RIVER, Aug. 15.

Arrived here all safe without accident of any kind, except a few who suffered from a severe attack of whiskey.

In the absence of a Gold Commissioner the miners have determined to hold a meeting in order to decide upon the quantity of mining ground that shall be allotted to each miner, and upon other matters. Mr. McCausland came up in the *Otter*, but his instructions from the Government, I believe, are not to go up with the present party of prospectors, but to proceed at once and join his own party of explorers. This the miners have a decided objection to, holding in reprobation the manner in which they were served by Leech, the explorer and discoverer of the diggings of that name, who, after promising to guide them, left them to find their way as best they could. They have therefore determined that Mac shall go with them "peaceably, if they can; forcibly if they must." However, I think force will not be necessary, as he has during the trip given every information to inquirers about the diggings.

Captain Swanson, of the *Otter*, deserves the utmost praise for his generous assistance to those having no canoes or boats where-with to ascend the requisite five miles of river navigation. The Indians here know nothing of the value of money, although they understand what muck-a-muck is, and hence some

difficulty might have arisen with regard to procuring canoes; but Captain Swanson smoothed the matter exceedingly by offering to receive the cash from the miners and paying the Indians the amount in goods.

It is impossible to say at the present time what the prospect is, as from where we are we can see nothing but the mouth of the stream we have to ascend. In a short time I hope I shall be in a position to write something that will have the effect of removing partially, if not altogether, the "hardness of the times" in Victoria.

### TWO HOURS LATER.

The meeting has been held and the laws are to be administered by the miners. A hundred feet square to constitute a claim. A town site has been laid out (the town to be called Otterville), and sundry enterprising individuals have already pre-empted and are busily engaged in building. Among others I may mention the names of R. Stege of Cariboo and Leech Esq., Wilcox of the Royal, and others whose names I do not know.

I have just time to write this ere the *Otter* leaves. I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. James, one of the engineers of the *Otter*, to deliver this.

J. S.

At a meeting held this 15th day of August, 1865, at Bedwell Sound, it was proposed by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. C. Molloy, that Mr. King be chairman of this meeting. Carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Molloy, that John Thompson be Secretary. Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Welsh, that Mr. McCausland be made to proceed with the prospectors to the Forks. Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. Welsh, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the claims consist of one hundred feet frontage on the river, and one hundred feet back into the bank.

Moved by Mr. Jacob, and seconded by Mr. Howard, that miners be allowed fourteen days absence from their claims, providing they go for provisions; and that each miner now present agrees to protect their claims against any new comers; also that the miners record their names; that five miners be chosen as a Mining Board, and that all disputes be referred to them, their decision to be final. Carried unanimously.

The following gentlemen compose the Mining Board: Messrs. Wilcox, King, Collins, Haughton and Richards.

W. Dickinson, A. C. Haynes, S. Allen, J. English, and others, 127 in all.

### OUR LONDON LETTER.

LONDON, June 17, 1865.

Parliament is hastening to its close. The estimates have been scattered through, and morning sittings for dispatch of business have begun. The 10th of July is now named for the rising of the Houses. Honorable members are anxious to get the elections over, for the delay increases the expense, and the Ministry are in a hurry lest Lord Palmerston should die before the new Parliament is chosen. The last attack of gout has made terrible havoc with his lordship's frame. It is quite pitiful now to see him shuffle into the House with a perfectly bloodless, ghost-like face, and his whole body shrivelled and wasted. He cannot remain long together in the House, yet when necessity arises he can speak, and speak with spirit and vigor.

The lobbies of the House of Commons are now always crowded; electioneering agents are very busy there, and it is quite edifying to see the ardour and *impressment* with which the members greet any of their constituents who may happen to be wandering about. The man whom at the beginning of a session they would have totally forgotten and passed without a look they now seize by the hand, shake them most affectionately, are so delighted to see them, and taking them by the arm lead them away to have a little confidential talk.

Important business has this week been transacted. The Lords have read the Union Chargeability bill a second time, by a large majority, and the

### ROMAN CATHOLIC OATH

bill for abolishing the special oath required of Roman Catholic members has passed through committee in the Commons. This gave occasion for a remarkable speech from Mr. Disraeli. He began by acknowledging that "the gulf stream of common sense" had softened the acerbities of religious controversy and made extreme men of very little consequence; people did not now discover a Jesuit in every Roman Catholic. Oaths were little worth; no oath or declaration would make the throne or the church a whit the safer, but he, nevertheless, desired that the Roman Catholics should continue to take the oath which engaged them not to make any attack upon the Established Church, because if they ceased to do so the nation might be alarmed, and a panic be created, which would act unfavorably on the Catholics themselves, and hinder the progress of religious toleration. This speech completely confounded his own party; they could not tell what to make of it at all, and received it in solemn silence. The proposal of Sir Hugh Cairns to retain so much of the oath as required the Catholics to do nothing to injure the Established Church was negatived in a full house by 17 votes.

### OXFORD TESTS ABOLITION.

But the House has never been so crowded this session as it was on Wednesday afternoon when Mr. Goschen moved the second reading of the Oxford Tests Abolition Bill. This measure originated with Young Oxford—the party in the University who are led by Professor Goldwin Smith. They dislike all theological tests, and they want to throw the University thoroughly open. At present a

dissenter may take a B.A. but not an M.A. degree at Oxford, without signing the 39 Articles, because all M.A.'s are members of Convocation, have a vote for members, and may impose a veto on acts for the regulation of the University proposed by the Hebdomadal Council. Last year the bill was in the charge of Mr. Dobson, the member of East Sussex, and he dealt with the subject very gingerly. He did not take up the question on broad grounds, and professed to be willing to accept any alterations in committee. He thus got a majority in the first instance, but on the third reading the bill was defeated by a majority of two. Since that time Mr. Dodson has been made Chairman of Committees, and he has had to hand his bill over to Mr. Goschen, one of the members of the city of London. He is one of the most rising men in the House and takes independent views. In moving the second reading of the bill on Wednesday he boldly avowed his object was to rationalise the Universities and to repudiate the claim of the Church of England to special rights and privileges. What ever the consequences of adopting this principle might be, he was prepared to accept them. For his own part, he was ready to throw open the Colleges as well as the University, but that was not within the scope of the present measure.

The rejection of the bill was moved by Lord Robert Cecil, who changed his name while he was speaking. When he rose he was Lord Robert Cecil, and when he sat down Viscount Cranbourne. The eldest son of the Marquess of Salisbury had died in the interval, and Lord Robert (his brother) was now heir apparent to the peerage. The late Viscount Cranbourne was about 45 years of age, and had all his life suffered from mental derangement.

Mr. Gladstone, who voted for Mr. Dodson's bill last year, declared that he could not vote for it now after the speech of Mr. Goschen. He was ready to let Dissenters take the M.A. degree without admitting them to Convocation; and he would give them every facility for erecting Halls in Oxford but nothing more.

Mr. Gathorne Hardy, who will be Mr. Gladstone's opponent in the coming election for Oxford University, also made a strong speech against the bill. 'Ah!' said Mr. Vincent Scully, 'I see that this is the Oxford Tests Bill in more senses than one!' The opponents of the bill insisted that it would revolutionise the University, and entirely destroy its religious character, leaving it only a great secular school.

After a long debate the House divided, and 206 members voted for the second reading and only 196 against. The bill was therefore read a second time amidst great cheering. There will probably be no time to proceed further with the bill this session.

### FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Last week was disastrously signalled by a series of terrible railway accidents—two of them on following days—from the same cause, and such a cause as we may trust will never again be permitted to arise. A Great Western train passing Rednal, in Shropshire, and the "tidal train" bringing passengers from the Folkestone packet—one of the best appointed trains in the kingdom—passing Staplehurst, in Kent, were thrown off the line by faults in the rails, which were under repair at the moment the train passed. In the latter case two whole lengths of rail were removed, and no proper means had been taken to stop the advancing train. At this point, too, the line passed over a bridge, and the consequence was that the engine and most of the carriages took a leap into the brook below, and all were smashed together in the water. Fourteen persons were killed on the spot, and a great number most seriously injured. Amongst those killed were four or five young wives; one a solicitor's wife was returning from her wedding tour. Mr. Charles Dickens was on the train, but he was not hurt.

### FRAUD AGAINST THE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Yesterday the Messrs. Barry, well known and wealthy warfingers, were put on their trial at the Central Criminal Court for defrauding the Insurance Companies by making false returns of property destroyed at their warehouses in two fires, which occurred respectively close to one another. The judge held that there was not sufficient evidence of conspiracy, and they were, under his direction, acquitted; but of the attempted fraud there could be but one opinion.

### FIRST TELEGRAM OVER COLINS' OVERLAND TELEGRAPH LINE.

The telegraph was working to Hope on Friday. The following is the first dispatch, says the *Columbian*; transmitted over the line: "Hope, B. C., August 18th, 1865.—To Mr. Grelley, Colonial Hotel, New Westminster.—Send a bottle of champagne to the Telegraph Office to Mr. Conway, with compliments of Landvoight."

MELANCHOLY.—Among the passengers lost on the late wreck were the two daughters of Charles W. Plass of Napa—Miss Mary Plass, aged nineteen, and her sister, Mrs. Brooks, who was going to meet her husband at Victoria. Mr. Plass has gone with the almost hopeless purpose of finding the bodies of his children.—*S. F. Paper.*

ERRONEOUS.—We are informed on very good authority, that Hazelrigg Bell, the young man mentioned in the *Chronicle* of Saturday as having perished at the wreck of the *Bro. Jonathan*, was not one of the passengers by the ill-starred steamer.

H. M. S. DEVASTATION.—We learn from officers of the U. S. steamer *Saranac* that the *Devastation* positively left *Acapulco* in pursuit of the *Shenandoah* as stated in a recent telegram. She sailed on the same day as the *Saranac*.

REPORTS:  
ALFRED CROSBY—  
coal tar, to Portland Gas  
pig iron, to A C Gibbs &  
A B Richardson; 32 cs  
0 casks of other pickled  
c.

RECEIPTS:  
RED.  
a, Adams, Port Angeles  
s, Nanaimo  
London  
er, Nanaimo  
Thornton, San Juan  
per, Nanaimo  
Dirk, San Juan  
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Finch, Port Angeles  
r, San Juan  
Packer, New Westminster

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nambors, Nanaimo  
Burrard's Inlet

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RECEIPTS:  
at the residence of Mr  
Horton to Miss Margaret,  
Boyd, Manufacturer,  
py.  
e bride's father, Sunday,  
T. S. Harper, Mr. N. E.  
a, Cal., to Miss N. A.  
Lewis County, W. T.  
y, A. R. Elder, Olympia,  
Mr. John A. Woodward,  
L. Yeeler, Esq., Seattle,  
Rev. N. Doane, Captain  
Mary Glover, to Miss  
Storia.

RECEIPTS:  
by Island, on July 25th,  
aged 20 years and six

PHENIX  
INSURANCE  
COMPANY,  
& CHARING CROSS  
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with the public may be  
that since its establish-  
ment, it has insured prop-  
erty to the amount of  
EIGHT MILLIONS  
of claims for losses by  
the public by the Phoenix  
insuring in addition to the  
Company, the whole  
proprietors, composed of  
merchants and others in  
annual and short time in-  
surance of property in Van-  
couver, Columbia on the most  
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at their office, corner of  
NUTTALL & CO.,  
Wharf street,  
Island and British Col  
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NOV. 11, 1863.  
ASSOCIATION;  
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California Highland So-  
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and see references.  
on the first Friday of each  
hold an annual gathering  
and Games, etc.  
The Bylaws are now  
S HENDERSON, Sec'y.

D LUMBER.  
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constantly receiving from  
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W. BRAGG & CO.,  
1st street, San Francisco  
2d street, Sacramento.  
mento.  
st, 1865. 116