

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, August 16, 1864.

THE SOOKE MINES.

No fewer than four steamers started for Sooke Thursday, viz. the Enterprise, Alexandra, Flying Dutchman, and Caledonia; the last, however, did not succeed in getting to her destination, her steam pipe having given out shortly after leaving the harbor, and compelling her to return to port. The Enterprise returned from Sooke about two o'clock, with two or three passengers, and the Alexandra at 4 o'clock, with between 20 and 30. The news from the mines is highly encouraging. Several of the claims are taking out excellent pay, and many others have the prospect of doing so as soon as they get into proper working order. Keyser and Company are credibly reported to have taken out \$200 to the three rockers. Capt. Pike, the pilot, vouches for this statement. On previous days they had taken out from \$80 to \$100. The Wake-up-Jake Co. above, the Keyser, were also taking out about as much as the latter.

Mr. Campbell-Johnson Street has taken up a claim about eight miles up Leech river. He informs us that he can take out from \$3 to \$6 per day by "crevicing," with pick, shovel, and pan. He states that there is plenty of good pay in the benches and hills adjoining his claim, and says he never saw more promising hill diggings in any part of California, in which country he has had much mining experience.

A number of claims have been taken up on Sooke river, below the junction, and the bars on that portion of the stream prospect well. A great many of the claims already staked out are now unrepresented, and unless the owners make their appearance on the 12th (to day) they will doubtless at once be "pumped." A number of miners who started yesterday on the Caledonia, to represent their claims, were unable to reach the mines in consequence of their mishap, and grumbling and deep was the result. They may possibly manage to arrive in time to-day, should any attempt be made to leave for the mines.

A quartz reef thirty-five feet in width, and supposed to be auriferous, was discovered near the junction, and specimens brought down on the Alexandra yesterday for assay.

SOOKE MINES.

The news from Leech river on Friday, at least, is of a mixed character; it is nevertheless satisfactory, and the most convincing proof that the miners have faith in the country is that several hundred men remain upon the Leech and Sooke river diggings. Those who have not yet taken up claims are waiting an opportunity of doing so. To-day all claims taken up must be represented, and many are watching the movements of those claim holders who staked off and recorded their claims upon the first rush. We expect to hear, in the course of a day or two, that considerable jumping has been going on. From miners who returned last night by the sloop Eagle and the steamer Caledonia, we learn that a general feeling prevails that Leech river will pay good wages but that the gold will be more difficult and expensive to work than was at first anticipated. The benches are being fast staked off on Leech river, and several shafts are being sunk.

A letter from a partner in the Wake-up-Jake claim, received last night, states that a nugget had been found in this claim valued at an ounce and a-half (about \$27). They were working three rockers and taking out from \$6 to \$8 per day to the bank, and had struck good prospects in the hill, and were in hopes of finding something big. Claims were being taken up and worked on Sooke river with satisfactory results. Some Chinamen are working a large bar which is said to yield them good wages.

THE SOOKE MINES.

SATURDAY'S NEWS.

The intelligence received from our Island diggings continues highly satisfactory. Few have, so far, returned without the intention of retracing their steps, and the number of miners now on Leech river is said to fall not far short of 800. Of these probably one-half would be without claims waiting an opportunity of stepping into the "gumboots" of those who might fail to comply with the strict requirements of the mining regulations. About 20 miners returned by the Alexandra on Saturday night bringing with them about five hundred dollars of Leech river gold. From their accounts considerable jumping was taking place on Saturday, the day on which all claims were required to be fully represented. The next boat will probably bring back some of the disappointed ones.

Mr. J. W. Keyser, of the Wake-up-Jake claim, writing to his son in Victoria, under date of August 11th, says: "The statement I have seen in the Colonist of the 9th, was very correct as I stated it to their correspondent myself, but I have seen a report in the Chronicle that the Wake-up-Jake Company have jumped the claim in the absence of its owners, and are still working it. This I can safely say is not so. Any man of common sense will know that 12 claims cannot be jumped at the same time. We hold our claims by pre-emption. The Chronicle correspondent has heard the toll of a bell but did not know where the sound came from. There was a man trying to jump one of our claims, but he was ordered to jump off again. Our claim pays well; we took out a nugget to-day of 1½ ounces. The Wake-up-Jake Co. took out \$100; on Wednesday, 4½ oz.; on Thursday 4 oz.

YESTERDAY'S NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF TREASURE.

From Mr. James Deane, of the Ballion claim, on Leech river, five miles from the Junction, we learn the following: On Thursday afternoon last, with a pick and pan, took out \$7, several pieces of which were worth \$1. On Friday took out between \$3 and \$4; on Saturday afternoon, having got the rocker to work, made \$4, and were confident they could make \$8 per day to the bank. A number of men are working on the north Fork, chiefly crevicing, and find coarse gold from \$1 to \$20. A Kanaka assured a Frenchman, who immediately told our informant, that he had a nugget worth from \$40 to \$50. A Mr. Garrie and his partner, on Saturday last, took out each an ounce with a rocker, and are making every day about \$5 each. The Wake-up-Jake Co. say they are doing first-rate; \$100 is reported to have been taken out in one day. One man who left on Sunday morning on the sloop Eagle, for Victoria, had 9 oz. in his possession. Mr. Deane says several companies are busy saving lumber, making preparations for several months' work. He has come to Victoria to procure another rocker, and other supplies. He heard that on a claim about a mile above the Commissioner's tent, a shaft had been sunk to the bed-rock, on a bench, out of which \$3 87½ were got. Mr. Deane is about half an ounce with him, and believes there is a considerable amount in the possession of miners on the creek.

From Mr. Scott, who returned by the Alexandra, we learn that Messrs. Helgesen & Weir, on Saturday, from nine in the morning till six in the evening, rocked out \$27.50. Mr. Coleman states that he took up a claim a few hundred yards above the Forks, and on Saturday prospected it. In every pan he found the color, and although he is not an experienced miner, he believes with a rocker, he can make \$5 a day.

Messrs. Anderson & Co., of Victoria, have taken up a claim of 800 feet, and called it the Albert claim. They are now engaged in sawing out lumber for sluices, and intend in a few days, working on a large scale. The prospects hitherto have been very promising, as much as four bits to the pan having been taken, the average being about 25 cents. On Saturday, in two hours, they washed out, with a rocker, about \$5. Messrs. Anderson intend to give the claim a thorough prospecting, and will spare no expense in doing so.

Mr. Pryn, who was four miles above the Forks, and who went to the diggings to satisfy his own personal curiosity, states that he found some miners who had great hopes of finding good pay in the benches.

The Nil Desperandum Company, about 3 miles up the creek, on the left hand side going up, were taking out about 2 ounces a day to one rocker, and yesterday found a nugget worth \$7.

The Wake-up-Jake Company were working two rockers, and said they were doing well.

The Swanson Company were getting pay out of the bench, about 11 feet from the bed of the river; saw the proceeds of \$4 paid of dirt, about \$2.

Smallbone and Company showed the proceeds of Saturday, forenoon's work, which was \$4.

Several Companies say they are making grub. Mr. Pryn went overland from Victoria by Goldstream, and thinks the distance from Victoria is about 24 miles, and the trail good, was guided by a Mr. Pryn.

The Rev. Mr. Garrett was met yesterday morning, within a half mile of Leech river. He was intending to hold service there.

Mr. Pryn heard that a creek had been discovered some 20 miles from Leech river, which prospected well, but there was no water at present to work it. The discoverer would not disclose the whereabouts, but was satisfied that he had a good thing.

The miners do not complain of the license fee, but grumble much at the system of recording.

There was not much jumping of claims on Saturday, most of the claims being represented.

There is no doubt in the minds of the miners about the richness of the river banks, the only fear is that the pay dirt is not extensive enough to last.

Messrs. Bruce & Garrie are working with a rocker, washing out the decomposed slate and rock about two ounces in one day. Their claim is situated a short distance above the Industry Company.

Mr. W. McK Smith and Mr. Moffatt, who are working a claim on Leech river, have been some days employed sinking a shaft on the river bench. Mr. Smith says they have gained good prospects all the way down, and he is confident that the dirt will pay all the way through. The company are now sinking a shaft in the bed of the stream, and expect to strike the bed rock at a depth of 8 feet.

Assistant Surveyor General Pears has blazed the river trail through. He reports that it will take about three weeks to construct a practicable trail to the mines.

Several parties prospected for amusement yesterday at the mouth of Sooke river and obtained colors every time. It is believed that all the flats along the mouth of the Sooke are auriferous.

Messrs. Shults and G. Buckland, of the "Wake-up-Jake" claim, who returned last night by the sloop Eagle, having left the Creek yesterday morning, came down to Sooke inlet from a mile above the Forks of Leech and Sooke rivers in three hours and ten minutes. We learn that on Friday they washed out four ounces, and yesterday three and a half. They have been averaging \$7.50 to the hand for one week. There are twelve in the claim. They have taken out altogether, thirty three ounces since Monday last, the day on which they commenced working. Our informant showed us about 13 ounces of splendid looking dust, for which they were offered \$19.25 to the ounce on the ground. The company are busy preparing sluice boxes, and expect to average \$10 per day. Our informant have come down for supplies.

Mr. Wm. Balls who also arrived by the Eagle informs us that his company, named the Rough and Ready, have taken up the highest claim in Leech river, about six miles up. On Saturday they commenced working with a rocker with two men, and took out

\$10 during the day from the surface dirt. They are sinking a shaft in the hill about 8 feet from the bed of the river, getting 10 feet high as 10 cents to the pan all the way down. They are also preparing sluice boxes. There were about 30 miners on board the Eagle, and they had in their possession about seven hundred dollars.

From Mr. Jeffrey we learn the following: The Butcher Co. have sent to Victoria for a California pump to enable them to reach the bed rock in the bed of the stream. Some of those who owned claims opposite Ward's store were obliged to stop working from a large fire which was raging in the woods.

Messrs. Thain, Bick, Cool, Sheppard and others, who occupy both sides of the creek next below the Fisher Co., had sunk a shaft in the bank, but not finding the bed rock were sinking on the opposite side and getting from 5 to 15 cents to the pan on Saturday. They intend working at once with a rocker. Messrs. Jeffrey and his partner, who occupy 8 feet by the edge of the stream without reaching the bed rock. They got the color all through. Two of their number were working their rocker about 120 feet above, and on Friday took out an ounce of gold in three hours.

The Ross Bank Co. immediately above, commenced rocking on Friday at 9 o'clock, and in 8 hours' work took out an ounce. Jeffrey and Stephen McDonald are the only shareholders in this claim.

The Ross Company above are running a tunnel from the edge of the stream into the hill, and are well advanced with their prospects. They intend reaching the bed rock.

Opposite to them, a company have sunk in the bed of the creek, and from two or three pans washed out prospects of from 15 to 20 cents. They were working a rocker on Friday, but had not cleaned up when our informant left them. In the bottom of the rocker, from the first washing, about \$5 were visible on the blanket.

The Thain, McDoull Company were working two rockers, and taking out good wages. They were all in high spirits.

From this claim above, as far as Jim Wil liams' claim, they are only prospecting. Williams' claim, containing from \$10 to \$15 a day by crevicing.

A meeting was held on Friday night, between Alley and Layzell's tents, and was attended by nearly all the miners working on the Flat. It was moved by Alley, seconded by Captain Thain, and carried unanimously that the flat be called the Kanawap Flat, in honor of the Governor.

Mr. Layzell had just opened his Wine and Liquor Store, and called all hands up to drink prosperity to the diggings.

Concerts are nightly held in the Thain tent and Roar-back camp, and the surrounding hills are made to resound with "Auld Lang Syne."

Some Italians working on bars, 6 or 7 miles above the north forks of Leech river, washed out only three pans \$43 in one day.

Some other Italians were also prospecting about a mile from the forks, and took out pieces of gold varying from 4 bits to \$8. They have since recorded their claims.

It is the opinion of miners of experience that the richest deposits will be found above the forks.

The Italians told Mr. Gentile, from whom we have the above information, that they had been to the head waters of the Leech river, about 13 or 14 miles up from the North fork. They had to pass by some awful canyons, and found the river afterwards opening out into a flat marshy country, where they obtained good colors. They were of opinion that this marshy ground was probably drained by a stream on the other side, having an outlet at Cowichan.

LEECH RIVER.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

LEACH RIVER, Aug. 13, 1864.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST: Sir—I like the appearance of this place very much. So far indications of gold are numerous, and you can get the color anywhere. I have seen a piece of gold that was taken out of the Wake-up-Jake, or Keyser claim, which weighed upwards of 1½ oz.; it is said to be the largest piece taken out since Booth got his. This claim is two or three hundred yards lower down the creek than Booth's, and on the opposite side, about two miles up what is called Leech river, but in reality a continuation of Sooke. The river is all claimed. There are large stakes about six or eight feet high, stuck up in the centre of the stream, which remind me of the towers and districts which would tend to develop a source of permanent industry. The gold mines should, as you have previously observed, be used as a local attraction; for every dollar that I, taken out makes the country so much poorer and we should strive to develop sources of a more permanent kind.

SUMMARY COURT.

(REPORTED BY CHIEF JUSTICE CAMERON.)

MONDAY, Aug. 15th.

The following suits were heard yesterday: Collins v. S. Harris, judgment for plaintiff for \$34 10, to be paid in one month; Rise v. Little, judgment for plaintiff for \$128 80; Mann v. Culverwell, judgment for plaintiff for \$18 25; Storey v. Nealey, judgment for plaintiff for \$120 75; Braverman v. Greenslade, judgment reserved for one week; Martin v. Clarke, judgment for plaintiff for \$100; Davis v. Plasket, judgment for plaintiff for \$40; Davis v. Williams, judgment for plaintiff for \$7 50; Martin v. Walton, judgment for plaintiff for \$15.

As two lovers were sitting on a bank in the neighborhood of Sheffield, on Friday night, a couple of ruffians came behind and garroted them, robbing the "fond pair" of their watch. The thieves were captured and committed for trial.

Lodge v. Mrs. Boucher, I had a bottle of port unopened yesterday, and find it now empty. Lodging-house keeper: Law, Mr. Smith, it must be the case, as I saw a rat running about the house with a corkscrew in its mouth.—Comic News.

AN INFAMOUS VILLAIN CAGED.

(From S. F. Alta.)

Little by little the secret of the means used by the prowling villain, who infest our city, to corrupt the minds and ultimately ruin the young girls in our public schools and private seminaries, is coming to light. Two weeks since, a girl of twelve years of age, attending a female boarding school in an interior town, received a letter postmarked San Francisco, which she, as a dutiful and pure-minded child should, immediately handed to her preceptor. This letter was as follows:

SAN FRANCISCO, July 21st, 1864.

To Miss—: I have just received from New York a large number of the most delightful books you can imagine. To refined young ladies of an amorous temperament, they are just the thing. For five dollars sent to me through the Postoffice, in two separate enclosures of \$2 50 each, I will forward to you two different volumes, each containing five tinted engravings, accompanying the package will also be a beautiful life photograph, entitled "Love's Fulfillment." The strictest secrecy will be observed, which may be heightened by your transmitting a fictitious address, in case you apply to—

MRS. AMELIA BARSTOW.

The Preceptor forwarded the letter to Chief Burke, and he, determined to ferret out the author and bring him to punishment, relieved Officer Hess from his usual office duty, and detailed him to attend to the matter. Hess wrote the following letter, by which copied in a lady's hand, and sent it to the town in which the seminary at which the young lady was attending is located, to be mailed for San Francisco:

JULY 27th, '64.

Mrs. Amelia Barstow.—Dear Madam: I received your letter, which you sent on the 21st of this month, and I am glad, for I have been wishing something nice to read for a long time.

Father has not given me much money this month, and I cannot send, this time, the amount you say; but if you will send me one book by sending \$2 50 please write and tell me so, and by return mail I will send it. A number of the girls in my class want some books also, and if you will send me one book for \$2 50 some four or five others will send for some also. Please direct to Chas. Harris, for if directed to a Miss or Master some of the teachers may get the letter.

Yours, truly,

MARY HARRIS.

He then obtained an order from Postmaster Perkins to the delivery clerk to answer that no such letter had been received, which it should be called for, and to get as full a description of the party calling for it as possible. The next day the letter was called for, and a description of the party calling for it taken down. Hess then commenced watching the window, and with occasional relief, by officer Pike, continued his watch night and day for two weeks. Yesterday, the villain came, got his letter, and left. Hess followed him, saw him break open the letter, and then drop into a saloon. Following him in, the officer entered into conversation with him, asked him his business, learned what he could of him, and then took him into custody. The prisoner stated that his name was Geo. R. Powers, and that he was a friend of Mrs. Barstow, but would not give the address of the lady. He was then taken to the calaboose, a change of "middleman" by offering to sell obscene publications, entered against him.

The trouble now was to identify the writer of the first letter; but this difficulty was soon gotten over by the shrewd detective. The prisoner was asked to write a line to "Mrs. Amelia Barstow," requesting her to call and see him. The trouble was over in a moment. The handwriting of the note and the original letter were compared, found identical, and the fact that Mrs. Barstow was no fact but a myth proven at once. Mr. Geo. R. Powers, alias Mrs. Amelia Barstow, will have an interview with Judge Sheppard to-day, and will, we trust, on Monday go to the chain-gang for a year, as unfortunately, that is all the punishment which the law can inflict upon him. The prisoner appears to have no profession, and only makes a show of doing something for a livelihood by occasionally writing songs of questionable purity of taste for the singers in low melodons.—S. F. Alta.

THE GRANDFATHER OF SIR JOHN LAWRENCE.—An English journal relates the following story:

More than half a century ago, the affairs of a worthy draper in the town of Coleraine, in the county of Londonderry, got embarrassed. He sent his son, who assisted him in business, to Manchester and Leeds to arrange with his creditors. The young man was warmly received, and after having failed to effect a settlement, arrived at Liverpool on his way home. His honorable spirit was lacerated by the treatment he had met with; and dreading still more the disgrace and reproach he expected to encounter on his return to his native town, he, in a fit of desperation, enlisted as a private soldier. The young draper's regiment was ordered out to India, where his good conduct soon brought him into notice, and the excellent education which he had received paved the way for his promotion. He rose step by step until he reached the rank of Colonel. He served his country with honor, and, in course of time, gave two sons to the military service. The two young soldiers to whom we refer were Sir John Lawrence, now Governor General of India, and the late Sir Henry Lawrence, known as the defender of Lucknow. The grand-aunt of the Governor General of India still lives as a respectable small farmer in the north of the county of Antrim, about two miles from the fashionable watering place of Portrush, and five miles from the Giant's Causeway.

The following singular announcement appeared in the New York Herald: "Six bridesmaids and groomsmen waited by a couple about to be married, who have but a few friends in this city, and wish to be handsomely united. To respectable parties a fair compensation will be given. Address," &c.

In a recent lawsuit it was declared that Middle Carolina Parti made on the Continent \$2000 in three months. Out of this she received about \$3200, and the rest fell to the share of the entrepreneur—not that she had a few friends in this city, and wish to be handsomely united, but for the one without a voice but with plenty of brains.