

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, September 27, 1864.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, SEP. 23. Council met at 3 p.m. Present—The Hon. the President, Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Treasurer, and Hon. H. Rhodes.

DIRECT STEAM COMMUNICATION. The Hon. Col. Secretary in pursuance of notice of motion introduced the above subject. He said the importance of the Governor's message was so great that little remained to be said on that score.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes—English goods? Col. Secretary—Partly so I presume, and partly from New York. A large field of profit was estimated from the conveyance of treasure.

The revenue from the transmission of letters and papers had hitherto not been large, but there was no doubt that there would be a material increase visible as these Colonies became more settled up and their resources developed.

The Hon. gentleman went into statistics of the loss sustained by the Exchequer by the present mail arrangements, and showed that during eight months of this year it had been practically \$8,270.

The Hon. gentleman did not consider that it was in the province of the Honorable Council to deal just now with the pecuniary part of the question, but he thought they should aid the Governor in getting proper and regular steam communication by a direct British line, which would save at least a fortnight to the time occupied by the present mode of conveyance.

That this Council having had under consideration the message of His Excellency the Governor relative to postal communication with England, is of opinion that it will be most desirable that His Excellency should communicate with the Government of British Columbia with a view to obtain the cooperation of that colony, and in order to ascertain what amount that colony would contribute towards establishing a British line of steamers between Panama and Vancouver Island; and further, that His Excellency should take such other steps as he might think fit to secure the important object in view.

The Hon. Attorney General seconded the resolution, observing that he did not think it necessary to add anything to the remarks of the hon. mover. The money part of the question was the only difficulty in the way.

of the world cut off from that direct and quick communication between friends and business men which was now recognized as necessary. People for want of proper communication were to a certain extent forced into the San Francisco market to procure goods which they would otherwise get from England.

The hon. President said the resolution expressed the opinion of the people of this colony on the Governor's message. That message went into a subject of vast importance to the entire community and to mercantile men especially. The present line afforded little accommodation; they looked to their own interests first and ours afterwards.

We left Nanaimo on Monday, the 15th August, and arrived in Nu-mu-ker-mis Bay on Wednesday, the 7th inst. Our provisions got so low on the 28th August that we were obliged to put ourselves on short rations. On the morning of Sunday, the 4th inst. we ate our last bit of bread at a place which we have called Hungry Creek.

On Tuesday last I took Mr. Battle and two Indians and went back to the place where I made the cache, and found everything returned to Albany yesterday at 6 p.m. Prospected for gold in every stream; merely found the color in the Nanaimo river and Hungry Creek; but did not find even that anywhere else.

Although the country abounded with deer and elk, and our hunters got a shot and had been hit by a successful shot, yet we were so unfortunate as not to be able to kill a single deer from the time we left the Nanaimo river. Dr. Brown and party have not yet arrived.

FROM THE EXPLORING PARTY. Letter from Corporal Leech. The following interesting letter from Mr. Leech, furnishing particulars of his journey across the Island to Albany, has been received by the Exploring Committee. We regret that the exploration of that portion of the Island has been so far fruitless.

ALBANY, 20th Sept. 1864. This morning I take the opportunity of reporting the arrival of myself and party at this place. In accordance with instructions received from Dr. Brown I proceeded with my party up the Nanaimo river to a point where it forks, one fork coming from the South West and the other, which is the principle stream, from the west, the latter having its source in a small lake which is connected with another by a narrow strip of running water about a mile and a half in length.

To the eastward between the Nanaimo and Chumbeim rivers there is an extensive plain heavily timbered. I should have examined this valley but the shortness of my provisions at the time would not justify me in separating my party as Dr. Brown intended that I should have done; however I have no doubt but that there is good agricultural land in this plain. Continuing our journey in a south-westerly direction we struck the head waters of the river Amuchin, which we followed to its mouth near the west end of Cowichan Lake. There is some excellent timber white pine and hemlock, on this river, but it is difficult of access.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE. FROM SOOKE.—Mr. R. S. Cranford, of Cariboo, returned last evening from a visit to Leech river with a favorable opinion of the future prospects of our mines. Mr. Cranford prospected in the neighborhood of the creek with success, and purposes taking a claim in a locality which he anticipates will eclipse Leech river in the yield of gold.

THE ALEXANDRA.—This steamer left the harbor somewhat suddenly on Wednesday evening, and several rumors were about yesterday as to her supposed destination. She cleared for New Westminster and from all we could gather we have no reason to suppose otherwise than that Captain Moore has gone to Fraser River, and will return so soon as certain arrangements of a pecuniary nature can be effected.

OFFICIAL DELAYS.—Complaints are made of the detention caused at the Treasury by the frequent absence of the Treasurer at the Legislative and Executive Councils. Only on Wednesday last a number of people were detained nearly two hours from this cause, the clerk being incompetent to give the receipts. If the Treasurer must occupy a seat at the Council it would be well to give the clerk power to execute necessary business during his absence.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.—By a notice in our advertising columns it will be seen that on Monday week the firemen will proceed to the election of a Chief and Assistant Engineer. For the first office the present popular Chief, Mr. John C. Keenan, is nominated, and is considered sure of re-election. For the second, Mr. John Kriemler, of the Deluge Engine Company, and Mr. Henry Pickett, of the same company, are in the field. Mr. Abbott, the present Assistant, declines to stand.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. (From the Colonist of the 24th.) RETURNED MINERS.—One hundred and thirty miners arrived in town yesterday, 40 having come on the Reliance from Yale and 90 on the Henrietta from Douglas.

THE RIPLE DRILL SHED.—The contract for erecting the drill shed for the New Westminster Rifle Volunteers, has been awarded to Messrs. Bonson & Richards for the sum of \$1088.

THE QUEENSLAND ROAD.—We learn that the first section of this road, comprising the contract given to Mr. G. B. Wright, is completed, and has been accepted by the Government agent. An arrangement has been made by which the contractor will keep the road in a state of repair till July next. A trail has been constructed, making a junction with the original road, which is also being materially improved so as to answer all purposes for the present, as the remaining portion of the wagon road will not be gone on with just now.

ANOTHER BURGLARY. About half-past one o'clock this morning the store of Mr. Solomon, in Yates street, was entered by burglars, who were in the act of bundling up a lot of clothing when the night watchmen, McGee and Levy, happened to pass, and on hearing an unusual noise inside, went up and tried the door, which opened on being touched. The burglars on being surprised immediately ran for the back-door, which they evidently had the precaution to leave open, and made good their escape. The entrance was effected by wrenching of the staple to which a padlock was attached.

MUTINEERS.—Three of the crew of the bark John Stevenson, alleged to have committed certain acts of mutiny and insubordination on board that vessel on her voyage from England, were landed shortly after the vessel arrived yesterday and lodged in jail. Three more of the men, who were sent on by steam vessel from Valparaiso, have not yet arrived.

BRITISH FLAG-PLANTING. It was not without reason and forethought that Franklin protested against the American eagle as a bird of bad habits, likely to get the Union into trouble. People would be astonished if they could see what favorite national figures of speech have cost our own country. The British flag was a most expensive beast, and never shook the dewdrops from his mane without some bad effect; and as for his roars, they would have made taxpayers roar too if they had known what they were about.

THE STEAMER CALEDONIA.—The steamer Caledonia arrived last evening from Sooke with 18 passengers, chiefly Chinamen. There is nothing new from the mines. Freight is still carried by the Caledonia and Culverwell's pack train to Kennedy Flat for 3/4 cents per lb. Maj. Foster, the Sooke Magistrate, had held his first court, three cases having come before him. One, a man named John Williams, was convicted of selling whisky to Indians, and was fined \$250 or 12 months imprisonment. He was unable to pay the fine and was consequently sent up to Victoria goal by the Caledonia. The other cases were of a trivial nature.

THE BANK ROBBERY.—A reward of \$1000 is offered for information which will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons who committed the robbery on Macdonald & Co.'s bank, and \$2000 on the recovery of the whole of the stolen property, or in proportion for any less amount that may be recovered. The numbers of the notes are known and their payment stopped.

THE COD FISHERIES.—We learn from the master of the schooner Langley, just returned from the North West, that the seas round the north end of this island and in the vicinity of Queen Charlotte abound with cod-banks, and that the fish are now extremely plentiful. He says one thousand barrels of codfish might easily be taken in one month near Nevery. The cod fishing season begins this month. Without doubt these northern waters contain a mine of wealth far surpassing either Sooke or Cariboo.

COPPER DISCOVERIES.—Mr. Charles Baranowitch, owner of the schooner Langley, returned last night from Queen Charlotte Island, where he has been prospecting for copper for some time. He informs us that he has discovered some very promising veins, and brings down with him a quantity of excellent specimens of ore, some of which he believes contain a percentage of silver.

ARRIVED AT LAST.—The long expected Government Dredging Machine arrived yesterday by the John Stevenson, from London, in charge of two Engineers.

THE GUNBOAT GRAPPLER.—The Gunboat Grappler, which was chartered by the Government, arrived at Nanaimo on Saturday, and proceeded on her way to Metlakahlah with Mr. Deacon and Dr. Walker on board.

THE EVENING GUN is now fired from the flag ship at eight o'clock.

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Indeed, it should be a general instruction to all government agents abroad to refrain, above all things, from flag-planting, which is but another word for encroachment and making ground for quarrel. The beginning of the war with the New Zealanders was a flag-staff which Heke contumaciously cut down a dozen times, and which we were in honor bound to uphold at the cost of an enormous amount of blood and treasure.

How the Ministerial mind could resist such a temptation to glory it is not for us to say, but though the proposal was not accepted it was not proposed by Governor Pine was left in possession of the idea of flag-planting—of all cultivations the most expensive and pernicious in consequences. A blessed thing it would be indeed to root up some of these flag-staffs, and we heartily agree with Sir J. E. Selkirk that some of our African possessions have become sheer nuisances.

FLOODING GARROTTERS.—John Croadace and Thomas Allison, who were convicted at the assizes last week of garrotte robberies at Sunderland, and sentenced, the former to five years and the latter to ten years' penal servitude, were yesterday taken to the gaol, to undergo the punishment of flogging at the County Prison on Saturday. The instrument of punishment was manufactured by a sailor, who is undergoing imprisonment in the jail, expressly for the purpose. The cat is ingeniously composed of nine things of stout leather, in each of which is a fine knot and these being connected to a flexible handle, the power, wielded by strong hands, is terrific. At every stroke the knots cut deeply, making flesh and blood fly in every direction. The prisoners were firmly tied up in a reclining position, the lower part of their shoulders exposed, the higher and lower part of their backs being protected by padding. The warders Hodgson and Allison executed their task with the skill of more practiced hands. The officials of the jail were present, but the prisoners were kept in their cells. Hodgson and Allison alternately inflicted ten lashes each on each of the prisoners. The first lash was received with comparative equanimity by each prisoner; but on the second, the yell of deep and excruciating agony which burst forth is represented as indescribable. Their cries continued during the whole of the punishment, and these, together with the sight of the flying flesh and blood, the mangled backs of the sufferers, and the clotted skirts of the cat, made up a spectacle of horror overpowering to those who witnessed it. When the punishment had been inflicted the prisoners were taken down and removed to the prison infirmary in a state of complete prostration. Indeed, it is asserted that neither of them could have received another lash without the greatest danger. Although the prisoners did not witness the punishment, they could hear the shrieks of the unhappy sufferers in the cells, and it is to be hoped the contemplation of the punishment may have a salutary effect on their minds.—Dispatch.

CHARLES MILLER, the man who was charged with stealing a coat from Edger, came up yesterday for meeting to give any account of the coat to the chain gang for six months.

MR. G. V. BROWN, of the firm of Messrs. G. V. Brown & Co., arrived yesterday in the brig Diana.

MR. WARD'S THEATRICAL COMPANY, arrived yesterday in the brig Diana.