The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday January 12, 1870.

Peace and Plenty.

Ill-founded gold excitements and sudden rushes of population either into the colony or from one part of it to another are events to be deprecated. Even well-founded gold excitements frequently make their appearance under circumstances which transform them into an evil. The truth of this latter proposition has been strikingly verified in the experience of British Columbia. The first memorable rush of 1858 proved to a great extent an evil, the consequences of which are still perceptible in deep-rooted prejudice against the country. The rush of 1862 likewise entailed ill consequences, the influence of which is still felt. In both instances the excitement was ill-founded, and many persons succeeded in accumulating large quantities of the precious metal. But, the colony being unprepared to receive and properly provide for so large and sudden an accession to its population, the many were forced to beat a hasty and, to them, disastrous retreat, each individual forming that disappointed multitude going forth into other countries, a living advertisement against the colony. Thus taught by bitter experience, the colonists generally are little disposed to repeat the error; and this accounts for the cautious reticence observed by the press regarding the recent gold discoveries made in the country drained by Peace River. We have been repeatedly urged to give more information upon the subject, but have been withheld from doing so by prudential motives. Had the truth been made known two months ago, another gold excitement would have been the result, and a mad rush to the new diggings would doubtless have ensued. For any considerable number of persons to have penetrated that country this fall would have been useless to involve themselves in serious difficulty and suffering, no means of supplying their necessities having been established. And even now it becomes a matter of serious doubt whether it will be possible to prevent a large rush in the too early Spring. It is in view of these considerations that we have conceived it to be the duty of every good colonist to carefully avoid any word or act calculated to fan into a blaze the nucleus of a gold excitement even now existing in the colony; for though we are greatly in need of population, and although there is unquestionably good mining, farming and fishing ground for all that will come, yet a large and sudden influx, as the result of a gold excitement, is a condition to be deprecated rather than desired. It will have been observed from information already published that although no great difficulties present themselves to ingress yet an early rush could not fail to result in great hardship, as no means of supplying the wants of a large population can exist until shipments have been made. One no doubt finds great consolation in a comparison of distances, facilities for travel, and probable prices with those prevailing in the early history of Cariboo. The cost of freight to Cariboo in early times was as high as 12 cents a pound. It is intimated that it will not exceed 10 cents to Peace River. A journey to Cariboo in early times involved terrible hardships, and occupied from a month to six weeks. The journey to Peace River, it appears, is being made in 17 days, and for the most part in smooth water. The excellent water communication must, of itself, be greatly in favor of the new gold field. We are assured also that there is in the immediate neighborhood of these mines plenty of good land, and that the climate is highly favorable for agricultural operations. It is fair to assume, therefore, that with the very first advent of a mining population persons will go in prepared to cultivate some of those rich valleys we hear about, and thus produce on the spot, from the very first, many of the necessaries of which the miners of Cariboo were deprived in early times; thereby not only insuring cheap food, but averting much of the suffering and disease incident to the absence of vegetables and fresh meat. It will be seen that great exertions are being made with a view to placing such transport facilities on the route in the spring as will tend to make a trip to Peace River a comparatively easy undertaking; and there is every probability that competition amongst the owners of small boats will be sufficiently sharp to ensure the cheap and ready transport of both men and supplies. But all these favorable conditions are more or less contingent upon the exercise of becoming caution and discretion on the part of those who may propose seeking their fortunes in that new region. A large and premature rush would find the steamer not yet above Cottonwood canyon, and the fleet of small boats still on the stocks. Those who start with a view to reaching Peace River in early June will find themselves in much more comfortable, probably more favorable circumstances than those who have encountered needless hardship and expense in order to be the first there. We are quite aware of the general feeling about the advantage of having the first choice; but the first choice of ground in a newly discovered mining region is not always the best, and from what is already known about this new El Dorado, there need be little anxiety about a first choice, as there is likely to be plenty of room for all. Notwithstanding the encouraging prospects and the accessibility of that region, we would advise all against leaving reasonably remunerative employment for the new diggings. The system of rushing after every new thing is a thing out one both to the individual and to the country, and few persons thrown up employment which offers steady and reasonable remuneration in order to accumulate sudden wealth who do not regret the step sooner or later. Let well alone; there are plenty others to go to Peace River. We hope to be able shortly to place before our readers more circumstantial information respecting the route to the new diggings, the distances, probable cost and facilities for travel, and such other information as might prove useful to persons intending to go there.

The Omineca Gold Diggings.

THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY'S AGENT AT STUART LAKE RECEIVES $2,500 IN GOLD DUST FROM THE PROSPECTORS

The Chief Factors of the Hudson Bay Co. in this city have received a letter from their agent, Mr Ogden, at Stuart Lake, dated 11th December. Mr Ogden writes that he has received the gold by way of trade, $2500 from the prospectors for provisions, and that he expected shortly to receive a much larger sum. He adds that there is much excitement in the country concerning the mines, and he anticipates a large influx of people early in the spring, as, by report, the mines are good. Stuart Lake is 200 miles south of the new diggings. Mr McKenzie, a gentleman connected with the Hudson Bay Co. informs us that the locality in which the diggings were discovered is called by the Indians the O-min-ec-a, from a species of whortleberry that grows there in great abundance, and which forms a staple article of native food. The hills that border on Findlay Branch are not permanently snow-capped. The principal range of the Rocky Mountains lies to the east of the diggings. The Cariboo and Reindeer abound in these hills, and the Omineca country is also a good hunting ground for the marmot. Rabbits, partridges and fish are exceedingly erratic in their visits. Some years they will be very plentiful; and others, very scarce. As a rule, the country does not furnish good hunting-grounds. The Indian tribes are not numerous. Winters are severe, but neither so severe nor so long as winters east of the Rocky Mountains. The snow runs off in April and by May the rivers and lakes are clear of ice.

Vital Creek is so called from Vital la Force, late trader in the Company's employ at one of the Peace River stations of forts. La Force has claims on the creek, which empties into a branch of the Findlay River. Findlay River debouches into the Peace or Parsnip River, which takes an easterly course and empties into Athabasca Lake. Athabasca Lake is connected with the Slave Lakes by means of a river, and McKenzie River takes its rise in the Slave Lakes, flows in a northerly direction and empties into the Arctic Ocean.

County Court.

(Before Hon. A. F. Pemberton.)

FRIDAY, Jan. 7th, 1870.

The Court sat at 11 o'clock a.m.

Doran v. Robson.—This suit was brought to recover the sum of $500 damages claimed by plaintiff, for the alleged violation of a contract. For plaintiff, Mr. Bishop, instructed by Mr. Courtney; for defendant, Mr. McCreight, instructed by Mr. Drake.

The evidence of the plaintiff went to show that defendant, as proprietor of the late *Columbian* newspaper, agreed with witness to furnish him with newspapers in accordance with the terms of a document of which the following is a copy:—

VICTORIA, Feby. 25th, 1869.

Mr John Doran—Sir—I hereby agree to give you the city route for the *Daily British Columbian* newspaper, you paying me seventeen cents on each subscription, payable every Monday. This rate to be for one year. The rate thereafter to be eighteen cents.

(Signed) JNO. ROBSON.

On the cross-examination it was shown that plaintiff had not paid a certain sum (still due) for papers received from defendant, and that he had been sued and judgment obtained against him at a former sitting of the court.

Mr McCreight asked for a nonsuit, which was granted with costs by the Judge, who held that the plaintiff, in refusing to pay 17 cents for papers received had not fulfilled the terms of the agreement.

Williams vs Wren.—Two actions were entered against defendant who was formerly pound-keeper—one for replevin and one for trespass—growing out of the enforcement of the Pound Law. Mr Drake for plaintiff; Mr. Bishop for defendant.

The judge ruled that he had no jurisdiction.

HO! FOR PEACE.—Several parties are organizing in town for Peace River *via.* Skeena River, to leave about the middle of February. Time enough, gentlemen, if you wait till the middle of March.

THEATRE ROYAL.—There was a very large audience present at the theatre last evening and the performance passed off with more animation than usual. In the boxes we observed the Misses Mungraive, Mr A. Musgrave, Jr., and Chief Justice Needham and family, and the dress circle was well filled with ladies. In the music drama of 'Used Up,' Mr Pepper's part was more than usually successful, which is saying a good deal—and was ably supported by Miss Cummings, Mr Ellerton, Mr Morrison, and Mr Robinson. The piece passed off splendidly throughout, and at the close Mr Pauncefort, Miss Cummings and Mr Ellerton were called before the curtain and enthusiastically cheered. The farce of the 'Rough Diamond' closed the entertainment. The beautiful play of the 'Lady of Lyons' and the farce of the 'Youth who Never Saw a Woman' will be given, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor. Seats should be secured between 11 and 3 o'clock.

NANAIMO LODGE 1030 E. R., met on Wednesday January 5th, when the following officers were installed for the ensuing Masonic year:—Bro. W Charles A Aport, R W M; Samuel Ollee, S W; John Sebriston, J W; Mark Bates, Treasurer; James McKay Sebriston, Secretary; Geo Beve Bockway, S D; Geo Boom, J D; Joseph Webb, I G; Arthur Penney, Tyler. After the installation the brethren retired to Bro Webb's. They were accompanied by the brethren of the Caledonian Lodge and were entertained with a most sumptuous repast. The festivites were continued till a late hour.

CALEDONIA LODGE, 478, R. S., F. & A. M.—The installation of officers for this Lodge took place on St John's Day, (Dec. 27th, 1869), in the Masonic Hall, Nanaimo, when the following officers were installed by the R W Master:—S D Levi, P M; G W Wm Stuart, R W M; James Brown, S W; Archibald Muir, J W; Isaac Johns, Secretary; John Renwick, Treasurer; Bruno Mollajo, S D; J Dick, J D; Henry Merome, I G; George Baker, Tyler.

THE FASHIONABLE COLOR.—It must be in honor of the union of the seas, and a compliment to M. de Lesseps, that the world of fashion has adopted the new raging color—*sea blue.* Of the new *toilettes,* if they are not darkly and deeply, they are beautifully, blue. *Jupons* are still worn short, in the new colored stuff, but without flounces; over the *jupon* is a robe of blue material, trimmed with blue velvet, fitting closely to the figure, and falling in a skirt, equally trimmed with blue velvet. As there is blue below, so there is blue above. The hats are in black *chenille,* with a border of blue velvet, and a *touffe* of dahlias of all shades.

TESTIMONIAL.—P M Joseph Blackbourne, of Victoria Lodge, F & A M, was on Thursday the recipient of a handsome Past Master's jewel, as a mark of the esteem and confidence entertained towards him by the Brethren.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE.—No man with even a forty-second cousin depending upon him should think of going to Peace River without first taking out a policy of insurance against accident, if not against death.

A GRAND RAFFLE for forty-five prizes, 200 chances, $1 each, will take place at the Brown Jug this evening. Throwing will commence at 8 o'clock.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Emily Harris arrived from Nanaimo yesterday. She was laden with coal for the Hudson Bay Company.

THE RUBY.—Yesterday a survey was held upon the bark Ruby by Capt Stamp and Mr Sewell.

IN THE OFFING.—A ship was reported in the offing yesterday afternoon.

A Leader Wanted.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST,—I fully concur in the remarks contained in your leader of yesterday as to the apparent apathy of the people of Victoria as regards the terms upon which we should enter the Dominion, and I think I can partly see a reason for the same. The fact is, we want a popular leader. Now, in times past, whenever such a person has made himself useful and prominent, he has been at once sneered at, coughed down and written down as a professional politician, demagogue, and all the rest of it. It is no wonder, then, that the present lull has occurred, which threatens to be so disastrous if it continues much longer. People naturally feel disinclined to place themselves in an invidious position and to be snarled at, as it were, by a set of impotent curs who commence their bark as soon as a great watch-dog attempts to provide for the safety of the state. As I have once said before, some persons when they see any one bestir himself and take the command of a great movement, through petty jealousies oppose him just because they are not in the front themselves. Now, however, there is a calm in the political atmosphere, and therefore a fair chance for any one to head a party in the good cause. Should, therefore, any such leader appear, let the rest heartily support his train.

I think your late articles have accurately expressed public opinion, and therefore the popular members of the hon. Legislative Council must be fully aware what that opinion is. Perhaps, therefore, nothing is lost by waiting till the House meets, and then let us hope one or more brave watch-dogs will be on the alert, and some skilful pilots arise to guide us through troubled waters to the desired haven.

R. W.

NON-ATTENDANCE.—In the County Court yesterday business was delayed on account of the non-attendance of jurors, and the Judge reluctantly fined several of them.

IT is generally believed that Cowper was a Free Mason, as he wished to erect a *lodge* in some vast wilderness.

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Many years ago, the writer of these lines and an invalid physician, while visiting the Island of St. Croix for their health, experienced and witnessed many surprising and beneficial effects of the Rum there produced upon many of the invalids who were (like ourselves) seeking health; and, upon inquiry and investigation, obtained a full history of its medicinal virtues. He was delighted and surprised, and after his own recovery, which soon occurred, determined, if possible, to procure the sole right to manufacture and sell it in the United States.

The result of his labors was a glorious success for himself and suffering humanity, for the celebrated PLANTATION BITTERS was thus made known to the world. PLANTATION BITTERS being an article of real merit, founded upon new principles, and relying wholly upon the vegetable world for its medicinal effects, worked a rapid revolution in the history of medicine, and became as a household word all over the civilized world. The cabalistic S. T.—1860—X. was a talisman of health, and the demand for the PLANTATION BITTERS soon far exceeded the abilities of the proprietors to supply.

Notwithstanding the large importation of St. Croix Rum, made expressly for the compounding of these Bitters, the quantity was inadequate. It therefore became necessary that arrangements upon an extensive scale abroad should at once be made, and an agent was dispatched to St. Thomas for that purpose. He was fortunate in securing and leasing several plantations on some of the largest and most productive estates on the Island. Houses, stills and presses were erected as if by magic, which utterly "astonished the natives." The services of experienced men and natives of the island were procured, and very soon the proprietors of the PLANTATION BITTERS were in a position to supply their laboratory with all the perfectly pure St. Croix Rum needed in manufacturing the GREAT DYSPEPTIC TONIC AND INVIGORATOR. The above cut represents the natives crushing the sugar-cane and otherwise preparing it for the stills and presses.

As an antidote to Fever and Ague, Intermittent and Malarious Fevers, Dyspepsia, and other kindred diseases, the use of the PLANTATION BITTERS is unsurpassed in the history of the world. Over five million bottles are disposed of annually. They are adapted to old and young, male and female. They are agreeable in taste, and always produce an immediate beneficial result.

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Pink	Crimson	Brown	Canary	Orange	Blac

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DR. RICHAU'S GOLDEN BALSAM, No. 2, CURES Mercurial Affections, Rheumatism in all its forms, and gives immediate relief in all cases.

Price of either No 1 or 2, $5 per bottle, or two for $9.

DR. RICHAU'S GOLDEN ANTIDOTE, A RADICAL cure for all urinary derangements. Price $3 a bottle.

DR. RICHAU'S GOLDEN ELIXIR D'AMOR, A RADICAL cure for Nervous or General Debility, in old or young, imparting energy with wonderful effect. Price $5 per bottle, or two bottles for $9.

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