

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday September 17, 1867.

The Kootenay Mines.

The report of the discovery of rich diggings in the Kootenay District, though not unexpected, yet requires confirmation before a too implicit reliance should be placed in it by the public. The rumor reaches us via Walla Walla, a supply station, on the Columbia River, of the Kootenay and Boise diggings. The country stretching from Kootenay River to Pen d'Oreille is represented as rich in gold. The diggings are said to be situated in a sort of basin, lying between high mountain ranges. Diggings when found in "basins" in Oregon and Idaho, have invariably proved immensely rich, though shallow and easily worked out. The promulgation of the report has caused a stampede from Walla Walla and the surrounding country of experienced prospectors, and a host of their value will soon be made, and the truth published. Should the new diggings prove as valuable as is now supposed, they can be supplied with the prime necessities of life from the American side at much lower rates than from this, but with a good mule trail through British territory the higher class of goods—such as clothing, tools, machinery, liquors, &c.—must always be procured at Victoria. Notwithstanding the Americans have the advantage of distance, their manufactured goods are always high. The best known route to Kootenay through British Columbia is by the trail from Fort Hope through Similkameen Valley and past Fort Shepherd. This trail has been open during the past summer, but owing to the limited population at the mines, has been little used. The new diggings are probably situated on both sides of the boundary line, or 49th deg. parallel of latitude. The country is well watered, and some valuable tracts of farming land in the vicinity of Pen d'Oreille Lake and River were "taken up" two or three years ago. Should the report before us be verified, the wants of the district will soon be increased fivefold, and the utmost expedition should be used by Government in placing the trail in a good condition so that the spring trade may be placed within the reach and control of our merchants.

Wednesday, Sept. 11. Municipal Council.

The Council met at 7 p.m. Present—The Mayor and Councillors Gowen, Trahey, Gibbs and Hebbard.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From A. J. Brun, requesting leave to construct an awning in front of his premises on Yates street. Read and leave granted.

The Secretary of the Spring Ridge Water Works Co. notified the Council of excavations in Government street for purposes of the company. Filed.

Application for one month's rent of Council chambers was referred to the Finance Committee.

Application from J. Gastineau, for the sum of \$50 for services in connection with the View street drain affair, was presented.

The Mayor stated that the evidence given by the applicant before the Arbitration Committee was not at all rendered in a straightforward manner.

The account was received and filed.

THE FERRY.

In reply to Council respecting the disposition of the Johnson street ferry, his Excellency the Governor did not think it desirable at the present time to interfere with the existing state of things. The reply was not deemed satisfactory, and it was laid on the table.

CROWN LANDS.

Councillor Gibbs moved for a committee to take action in the matter of the City Crown Lands. Carried, and the mover and Councillors Hebbard and Gowen were appointed. Council adjourned till Tuesday next.

Mayor's Court.

[BEFORE MAYOR MACDONALD.]

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 1867.

Re Sanitary Committee vs. Porter & Promis. This was a complaint made by the Sanitary Committee against the building of a culvert at the rear of Lot No. 1260, under the Sanitary by-law. Mr. Copland appeared for the defendants, and urged that as the drain did not come within 20 feet of the defendants' lots, they had declined to trespass on their neighbor's property to erect a culvert as required by the notice of the Sanitary Committee, and he also objected to the jurisdiction as the act did not authorize the mode of procedure adopted by the Committee. The Mayor said he could not make an order in this case as the ravine drain did not pass through the defendant's property.

Several other informations were also heard, but were postponed for compromise.

SEVERE ACCIDENT.—Mr John Henderson, of the Telegraph Company, while in a buggy yesterday afternoon on the Esquimalt road, met with an accident which resulted in the breaking of the small bone of his right ankle. In company with Mr Burrage, Mr Henderson was driving towards Esquimalt to board the bark Palmetto, when one side of the shafts became disconnected from the axle, and the vehicle being thrown forward upon the horse's hind legs, caused him to become unmanageable, and in leaping from the buggy Mr Henderson received the injury, which will confine him to his room for some weeks. The unfortunate gentleman was conveyed to his home, where he was attended by Dr Powell,

Leech River.

The Frederick Bar Company took out last week \$127 for six days' work. The company is composed of Capt Baker, A. Carlos, S. Callis and Burke. At the North Fork, the Webster Company, consisting of three men, took out last week \$30 to the hand. before the lead was struck two members of this company skeddaddled heavily in debt. The Smith Company had come down from Devil's Grip for a fresh supply of provisions, and seemed to be well satisfied with their prospects. They exhibited some of the best gold ever seen on the creek. The hopes of the miners are high and great expectations are formed of the ditch, which, however, is not expected to supply sufficient water to enable the miners to get into the bank for a month yet.

A SINGULAR DREAM.—The Quebec Mercury relates the following in connection with the death of Capt. W. D. Spear, a soldier who had formerly served in India, who was recently foully murdered in Montana. This spring he made a long tour through the States and West Indies, and returned to Quebec before leaving for the west. Strange to say, he stated to several gentlemen just before setting out, that he had a dream in which he distinctly saw a coffin with the name "W. D. Spear, died 17th June, 1867," on it; and in writing to a lady, about three weeks ago, he said in joke that one reason for addressing her was his own approaching end as foreshadowed by his dream. The date of his death is not known, but it must have been on the day named or very near it. It appears that he was going to his cabin on board the Missouri steamer, which was at anchor somewhere in the neighborhood of the Indian disturbances, when in the middle of the night he was shot dead by a sentry.

THE THEATRE.—There was a full house at the theatre last evening, and the performance proved highly successful. Mr George Edwards, who possesses unquestionable talent as a comic vocalist and actor, sang several ballads in his best style, everyone of which was encored. The favorites of the evening were "Babbalanza" and "The Mouse-trap Man." Mr Edwards also took a part in "Love in Humble Life," and in "Box and Cox." Miss Jenny Aroot sang with much sweetness "Tis Hard to have such Sweethearts," and Mr O'Neill, the Negro delineator, gave a comic ballad and danced a breakdown (in white) to the great satisfaction of the audience. Mr Chas. Clarke, in the character of Cox, was characteristically happy and correct, and came in for a large share of the applause.

FRENCH LICENSE.—Colonel Fordy, who has been recently travelling in Europe, says: "There is license for everything in France but the license of speaking and writing against the government. You may be an Infidel, a Turk, a Mormon, or an American rebel; you may live as you like, and die as you choose, if only you observe this main condition. The Emperor having taken the contract of the government to his own hands seems resolved to please his people in all other respects; and nothing shows his sincerity more than his anxiety to make Paris as agreeable to strangers as to the natives."

THE CHARGE OF FORGERY.—Charles B. Schlessinger was arraigned in the Police Court yesterday morning upon a charge of having forged the name of Henry Granbaum to a check upon the Bank of British North America for \$300. Mr Bishop appeared to wait the case for Granbaum Bros., and Mr Ring for the defence. The Bank was represented by counsel. The prisoner, who seemed much depressed and hid his face behind a felt hat, was remanded until to-day.

An extraordinary divorce suit has been concluded in Prince George, Mo. The husband, in his petition, avers that his wife, since marriage, has been ill-tempered, and for three days at a time has had the mad dumps silently. In view of these harrowing facts, the Court listened to his prayer, and granted the divorce.

ARRIVAL OF A TELEGRAPH VESSEL.—The American bark Palmetto, 25 days from San Francisco, arrived yesterday afternoon. The Palmetto has on board about 70 tons of telegraph wire for the Western Union Extension Company, and after taking aboard a quantity of wire, now lying in bond at Esquimalt, will sail for New York City.

THE BIANCHI OPERA TROUPE.—The next performance of this talented troupe has been fixed for Saturday evening next, instead of Thursday evening, as previously announced. A most attractive bill has been prepared, and as the entertainment will be for the benefit of the Prima Donna, Signorina Bellini, we trust to see an overflowing house.

THE DRY DOCK.—We learn that the plans, &c., for the dry dock at Esquimalt were forwarded by last steamer to the Admiralty, accompanied by a strong recommendation from Admiral Hastings in favor of commencing the construction of the great work early next spring.

OPUM SEIZED.—A carpet-bag containing sixteen half-pound cans of opium, smuggled into Portland from Victoria by way of Olympia and Monticello, has been seized at the former place.

CHICAGO eats yearly 100,000 pairs of frog's legs; in other words, 100,000 frogs die annually for its good. They enter like as tadpoles and depart from it fried in crumb.

A WESTERN paper thus hits off a popular fashion:—"The attention of the police should be directed to Pant A. Loon. He's tight on the street daily—awful tight."

The British ship Nation's Hope, from San Francisco, arrived yesterday morning, and will load with lumber at Stamp's Mills for Melbourne, Australia.

The Alexandria, with half-a-dozen passengers and a full freight, sailed for New Westminster yesterday morning at 10 o'clock.

SALE OF CLOTHING AND DRY GOODS.—By order of Messrs Sproat & Co., Mr McCrea will hold an extensive sale of clothing, dry goods, carpets, towelings, &c., at his sales-room, to-day, commencing at 11 o'clock.

THE GREAT DISCOVERIES AT KOOTENAY!

A Basin of Gold!

(From the Walla Walla Statesman of August 30.)

Mr Dacree, just down from Kootenay, brings highly favorable reports from the mines. The party of twelve men who went out early in the season to prospect the Big Bend of the Kootenay, had struck it rich, and report the whole strip of country extending from Kootenay River to the Pen d'Oreille as abounding in gold. They were endeavoring to keep the discovery as quiet as possible until such time as they would be able to notify their friends and secure them in possession of the best claims. The news, however, has leaked out, and already parties are on their way to the new diggings. The claims on Finley Creek have paid well this season, and miners who desired to leave for the new discovery have sold their claims for as high as \$1800. Altogether, mining operations on the Kootenay have paid better this season than in any future year, and as a consequence the miners feel greatly encouraged. Mr D. also furnishes us the particulars of the murder of four Kootenay miners by Indians. These men belonged to the party who made the discovery noticed above, and had been sent out for a new supply of provisions. They had been down to the Spokane Bridge, and were on their return with supplies to last them the coming winter, when they were attacked by Indians and the whole party massacred. The names of the murdered men are as follows: Mr Allen of Walla Walla, (who leaves a son and daughter living in this Valley); John Moore of Walla Walla; Jos. A. Fern, partner of Tim Lee, Spokane Bridge, and Anthony Cavenagh. The murder occurred on the 14th of August. The murdered men had 18 horses and a very large stock of provisions, all of which fell into the hands of the treacherous Indians. Four of the comrades of the murdered men, who were on their way out to assist them in getting into the mines, heard the firing, and subsequently were attacked by the Indians, but succeeded in making their escape with the loss of two horses. They then came down to Spokane Bridge for the purpose of procuring new outfits, and having lost all their supplies in the Indian attack narrowly escaped starvation. After having refitted, they started on their return to the mines and are supposed to have gone through in safety. This last demonstration would seem to indicate that the Indians throughout the whole upper country are disaffected, and that they only wait the opportunity to commence a war of extermination.

MINING EXCITEMENT.

The news reached here on Tuesday, and by daylight on Wednesday morning a party of adventurers were off for the new diggings. The numbers that are going will afford ample protection against a possible Indian attack, and we can only hope that those who thus boldly strike out will be successful in reaping a rich harvest of gold. These mines, as described to us, are situated in a sort of basin, and the area already prospected will afford employment to several thousand persons.

Dominion of Canada.

ONTARIO.

PORT HOPE, July 23.—A fire broke out in Mr. C. Brant's drug store on Saturday morning. In a short time the whole building was in flames which rapidly spread to the adjoining buildings, and before the destructive element was arrested the following stores were burnt to the ground:—W. S. Tempest, grocer; T. N. Pitts, clothier; C. Clemens, grocer; C. Brant, druggist; P. J. O'Donnell, news depot; H. F. Howell, grocer; N. Stockin, boots and shoe dealer; C. Hagaman, grocer; A. Hoffman, toy and fancy wares, and several others who occupied the upper stores. The damage is about \$50,000, mostly covered by insurance.

Yesterday (Sunday) a terrible burri-can passed over this place. The new drill shed in course of erection and almost completed, was blown to the ground and completely destroyed.

WOODSTOCK, July 16.—The greatest excitement has been caused here for the last few days by the presence of two so-called whiskey detectives in our midst, one of whom has just returned from an apprenticeship in the Penitentiary for horse-stealing. Two grocers and one hotel-keeper have become victims. The trial commenced yesterday morning, but had to be postponed on account of the mob, who acted in a shameful manner. The trial was again resumed this morning. The mob was more furious than ever. Twenty special constables were sworn in, and the volunteers called out with fixed bayonets. The hotel at which they put up was besieged by the mob; the Riot Act was read by the Mayor, and the whole town was in a fever of excitement. One detective having committed himself in evidence, was sent up for perjury. The other had to be accompanied to the sta-

tion by the Mayor, a number of magistrates, and a military escort—two thousand of the inhabitants following. The volunteers found it necessary to accompany him on the train to the next city. A great number of the mob also followed on the same train. The final result is not known.

OTTAWA, July 25.—The only item of interest here is the return of a surveying party who left this place in March last, under the direction of the Government, to ascertain the length of the Ottawa River, and the position of its head waters. They reported the length of the River to be about one thousand miles instead of five hundred, as has been supposed.

An Ottawa telegram mentions the rumor that Mr McGee has been offered the office of Queen's Printer for the Dominion; that Mr Cameron will have the similar post in Ontario, and Mr Desbarats in Quebec.

The Toronto Globe asserts that a most gross and wanton outrage has been perpetrated upon the grave of the late Ensign McEschern, who lost his life at the time of the Fenian invasion.

QUEBEC.

One of the changes operated by confederation is that henceforth the governor of Quebec will as previously the conquest worship in the Catholic cathedral. The pew, formerly occupied by the French governor, had always been reserved, judges only being allowed the use of it. We now learn from the *Courier du Canada* that it has been restored to Sir N. Belleau, who, last Sunday, occupied it in state with Lady Belleau. They were ushered into it by Lieut. Col. B. Panet, dressed in uniform, and acting as aide-de-camp to his Excellency. This restoration of a French governor to his pew in the Catholic cathedral of Quebec will be hailed with delight by our French fellow-citizens.

The Gazette has a long article upon Mr Cartier and Mr Galt declining the honor of C. B. Both wrote letters to the Governor-General on the subject. Mr Cartier wrote indignantly that French Canadians should have been so badly treated. Mr Langevin was not even made a C. B.—for himself, he modestly says that as a political leader, and co-worker in the measure of Confederation, his position was inferior to that of one others, and that he represented a million of French people.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Recent advices from New Brunswick speak in very favorable terms respecting the crops. We have similar encouraging news from Nova Scotia.

The suit of Dr Livingstone against some volunteers, in St. John, New Brunswick, for cutting down a flag placed at half mast upon the premises of the former on Dominion Day, which has created a good deal of local excitement, has been decided by the police-magistrate discharging all of the accused.

In this Province our Government still clings to office. Messrs. Tilley and Mitchell pretend that because Messrs. Fisher and Connell wish to remain in office they should not resign. But Messrs. Mitchell and Tilley are members of the Dominion Government, and Mr. Mitchell is a Senator, as Mr. McClellan and Mr. Wilmore are, and Mr. Williston is a Judge. These five then should resign: But there really is no conclusive reason as yet why Mr Fisher or Mr Connell either should throw up his office. Neither holds any political position in the Dominion as yet, and it is quite possible that neither ever may. It is now rumored that some arrangement has been made, and if this is the case, the savage attacks made on Mr Fisher by one of the organs of the Schemers will probably cease for a time. *St. John (N. B.) Freeman July 18th.*

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Halifax Citizen of the 16th, gives a list of candidates in the various counties of the Province, and says that in nine counties of the eighteen into which Nova Scotia is divided, no candidate has yet been announced in the interest of the ministerial party. It says the chances of the House of Commons in any one of the nine counties in which they put up candidates, are growing "small by degrees and beautifully less."

The news from Cumberland, Nova Scotia, is gratifying to Union men everywhere. Tupper has manfully fought through the campaign against Howe, Annand and others, and came off conqueror. The result of the campaign is, that Howe has discovered that (as a Halifax paper expresses it) his engagements in Hants preclude his accepting a nomination for Cumberland, and Mr Annand don't feel quite as capable of meeting Dr. Tupper as he did a little while ago. At Amherst, Tupper boldly challenged a division when cries of divide were heard, and the result was eminently satisfactory, despite the efforts of men from Westmoreland whose votes Dr Tupper was instrumental in limiting to New Brunswick.

At Tidnish, the national sentiment was found overwhelming. At Pugwash and Wallace the result was eminently favorable, notwithstanding the exertions of some of Howe's followers to make a display in favor of their leader before the intellectual contest, commenced.

The Halifax Chronicle says: The Hon Dr Tupper has placed in the hands of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor the resignation of the Government; and His Excellency has been pleased to entrust for formation of a new Administration to Hiram Blanchard, Esq., and P. C. Hill, Esq.

Prince Edward's Island.
The British troops have been withdrawn from Prince Edward's Island, and drawn returned to their old quarters in Halifax.

Red River.

We learn from a gentleman in the city yesterday from the Red River Settlement, that not more than half the usual number of buffalo were captured last season, and that the most of the Hudson Bay Company's carts will have arrived at St. Cloud within a day or two. The road is extremely bad, and a vast amount of freight has accumulated at St. Cloud, awaiting better roads for transportation. There were many rumors current about the appearance of bands of hostile Sioux, lying in wait to cut off small parties, so that the half-breeds of the settlement had become greatly scared and could scarcely be induced to accompany any small party. There had been no confirmation of any of these rumors, but more ample precautions were naturally taken by all. The gentleman reports that there are quite a party there, along, and at last rather impatiently waiting the coming of Capt. Davy's Montana Expedition; but that owing to bad roads, said expedition was progressing slowly. The crops are spoken of as looking finely all the way through.—*St. Paul Press.*

Terrible Fire at St. Kitts, W. I.

We have the subjoined further intelligence of the destructive conflagration on the island of St. Kitts:

St. Basseterre, July 12th.—A fire broke out on Wednesday evening, the 3d of July, at about 11:30 p. m., in the centre of the town, and, defying all efforts made to arrest its progress, quickly spread in all directions, its ravages only ceasing with the almost total destruction of every building in Basseterre. Public buildings, such as the Court House and Government House, as well as the Treasury—not situated in the centre of the town—miraculously escaped, while on the other hand, the beautiful Parish Church of St. George has been almost totally destroyed, and of the stores in town not one remains. Of the origin of the disaster no information is afforded.

In consequence of the total destruction of the stores and places of business, and the loss of the articles of provisions stored therein, there has been a complete dearth of food, and anxiety is manifested lest the calamity which has already befallen us, another should be added in the form of pestilence. The demands for food were of so pressing a nature that Captain Badger, of the United States steamer, had been prompted to render such assistance as a partial supply from the stores of the ship would permit—an act of kindness and generosity for which he deserves special commendation.

As soon as the information reached Antigua, Col. Hill, with the promptitude and energy which characterize his acts, aided by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Eldridge, immediately took measures for despatching a vessel with a cargo of provisions, and the schooner Kate was loaded from Antigua with 300 barrels flour, 50 barrels meal, 29 sacks rice and five barrels alewives. Another vessel was to be despatched with fish and other articles. Only one life is reported to have been lost, but under what circumstances we have not heard. Not above 15 respectable houses are left standing, and every merchant and storekeeper, without exception, is ruined out. The church, and I regret to say, the bank also, has shared the same fate. The vault of the bank (fire-proof) held out, and when opened on Friday the cash and books, etc. were all safe. The value of property (including houses) may be put down from £200,000 to £300,000, and not over £30,000 insured.

A Card from a Professional.

EDITORS COLONIST.—As we believe that the Press is the only method by which we can get our grievances redressed, we will be under a great obligation to you if you will insert the following in your paper.

In the first place, we desire to know how it is that a certain party in the theatrical line in this town can procure the theatre on any evening that may suit his convenience and monopolise the whole of the theatrical amusements, while other professionals, far superior in talent and otherwise, cannot obtain the use of it under any consideration?

Several applications have been made for the use of the theatre during the last month, on nights when it was not otherwise engaged, and the applicants have invariably been referred to the individual above referred to.

We would also like to know, whether there is not sufficient talent already in town to get up a respectable performance, and whether it is just to hire performers from the fleet and elsewhere, thereby preventing those professionals who we have among us from earning their bread and excluding them from their legitimate business? And also, we really cannot see why we cannot obtain the theatre on the same terms as the professional alluded to. If his performances are supposed to be so much superior to ours, it must follow that he has better houses and, of course, ought to pay rent in proportion.

Yours, &c.,
PROFESSIONAL.
Victoria, Sept. 10, 1867.