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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.
And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 8. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1867. NO. 31

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The War on the Plains.

All through the country lying between the western terminus of the Pacific Railroad and Green River in Nebraska—a stretch of some 1100 miles—the native tribes have broken out in open hostility to the whites. The mail coaches are stopped and plundered, the drivers and occupants killed and scalped and their bodies left for the prairie dogs to devour. Telegraph stations are attacked, the operators murdered, the habitations burned, and the wires reported "down" more than half the time. In some cases the poles are burned for miles—the Indians having learned that the "devil's lightning," as they formerly termed the telegraph, is used by their enemies as a means of transmitting news of the outrages and appealing to the troops for aid. Solitary travellers are cut off; farmers who have settled along the line of wagon-road with their families are attacked, their property destroyed and themselves either killed or driven into the forts for safety. In one instance a fort, (Buford) garrisoned by nearly one hundred soldiers, was besieged by two thousand redskins for three weeks, and nothing but the vigilance and resolute pluck of the defenders saved the place from capture and its garrison from massacre. In another instance, in January last, the Indians decoyed one hundred officers and men from Fort Phil. Kearney into a ravine, where they surrounded and slaughtered them to a man. The country is as level as a floor, with occasional strips of wooded land and here and there a low range of hills. The number of warriors in arms against the whites is estimated at from eight to twelve thousand large, powerful men—by the side of whom the Indians of this section appear like dwarfs—well skilled in the use of arms with which they are supplied by the Mormons, who are interested in driving back the waves of civilization that have commenced to flow towards their saintly retreat from both sides of the continent. Against these rebellious subjects, General Hancock, an American commander of considerable renown acquired in the Southern war, has been sent with a force variously estimated at from 10,000 to 20,000 veteran soldiers. Thus far the operations of the General have not been attended with success. He has been on the "war-path" since the first of March, but his operations have been confined to making treaties with the tyhees of each tribe while their *tenas* men are engaged a hundred or two miles in another direction committing outrages of the most diabolical character on the white settlers and travellers. There seems to be a lack of vigor in the management of this war which can only be accounted for by the inexperience of the commanding officer and his men with Indian warfare. Regular soldiers have never made headway against Indians. The Florida war with the tribe of Billy Bowlegs (a noted Seminole chief) lasted fifteen years and cost the Government $25,000,000. It might have been on the carpet to this day had not volunteers—men who thoroughly understood the habits of their red foe and knew his skulking places among the everglade swamps—been sent against him, when a single campaign sufficed to end the war. In Washington Territory and Oregon the Indians set the force that the Government sent against them at defiance, and did pretty much as they pleased with the country until the settlers, aroused to vigorous action by the ineffectiveness of the regulars, took to the field with the dreaded Mississippi rifle and mowed the redskins down like grain before the sickle. The Indian policy of the United States is a humane one. The tribes are treated well and presented with a great many blankets and large sums of money annually. Indian Agents are appointed for the different reservations and districts, the savages are taught how to build substantial dwellings and to cultivate the land, and, above all, means are employed to keep them from obtaining arms and the maddening "firewater." But with all these guarantees of comfort and the precautions against vice, unprincipled white men succeed in smuggling both weapons and liquor into the reservations; drunken orgies follow, and the agents soon lose control over their wards. With the best intentions, the Indian policy of the United States has failed. It is too temporizing. The Indians cannot understand kind treatment. They get to believe that the white men are afraid of them, and, impressed with the idea that being the natural owners of the soil they are alone entitled to reside upon it, emboldened by drink, they rebel against the agents and "take to the road." Often, we know, gangs of white men provoke the Indians to such an extent as to force them to take up arms in their own defence, and cause them to regard the palefaces as enemies. But in a majority of instances, whiskey and the bad advice of their Mormon neighbors, combined with a natural restiveness while under control, impel them to the commission of frightful outrages. Last night's despatches speak gloomily of the state of Indian affairs on the Plains, the mail agent having notified the Government that unless steps are taken to protect the coaches the service must be abandoned. Nothing but a swift and terrible punishment visited upon the savages will put an end to these troubles. The treaties made are only respected so long as the army remains within gunshot. The moment it leaves one tribe to "pacificate" another, the war breaks out again behind them. If General Hancock would maintain his reputation as an able commander, he must abandon his pacific policy and give and take some hard knocks for the remainder of the season.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Monday, June 10th.

THE hull of the Alabama, sunk three years ago in her fight with the Kearsarge, has floated about two miles nearer the French coast than where she went down, and where her remains now lie firmly wedged among the rock in fifty fathoms of water. No attempt has ever been made to raise her, and as she now lies in French waters, this could not be done without permission of the French authorities. A short time ago this permission was applied for by a ship builder, and his application being referred to the Minister of Marine, it was refused. It is doubtful, however, whether she could now be raised, and even more unlikely that it would pay to raise her if she could be.

ACCIDENT—Yesterday a little girl, while running along the sidewalk at the foot of Fort street, tripped over a nail and fell with great violence on her knee, lacerating it in a very severe manner. These nails should be driven in.

DR BROWN BEFORE THE ROYAL PHYSICAL SOCIETY—At the meeting of this Society on the 21st of March, the second paper read was "Contributions to the Seismolegy of North West America," by Robert Brown, F. R.G.S., Commander and Government Agent of the first V. I. Exploring Expedition, and late botanist of the British Columbia Expedition, director of the scientific observations of the North Greenland Expedition. In this paper the author entered into an elaborate account of the various earthquakes which have convulsed California and other portions of North West America, and discussed the various seismic phenomena exhibited during these shocks. In conclusion, he remarked that though the earthquakes of North West America were numerous yet few had been attended with loss of life, attributable to the houses being of wood, and the brick and stone ones well built. He referred to the late earthquake in Mitylene, on the Levant; and in speaking of the great earthquake of Lisbon in 1755, when 60,000 people were killed in the ruins of that city, he remarked that it was generally acknowledged in Lisbon now, that the great destruction which occurred at that time was principally owing to the defective construction of the city. Although since then the city has been visited with many severe earthquakes, yet little or no damage has been done—Pombal, the then Prime Minister of Portugal, when reconstructing the city, in 1755, having consulted the best engineering talent of Europe. Indeed, as far as loss of life was concerned, more had been lost by a pestilence in one year than have ever been lost by all the shocks of earthquake of which we have any record. In support of what he said about construction of buildings, he described the old cities of Yucatan, the buildings of which had been constructed with a knowledge of the surface-action of earthquakes, and were many of them standing still, whilst the more recent buildings were continually overthrown.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—The Cariboo *Sentinel* of the 27th ult., has the following account of the death of Mr. William L. Mitchell, formerly one of the proprietors of the BRITISH COLONIST, and more recently of the *Evening Post* and the *Telegraph*, Victoria. "After closing up business in Victoria, this spring, Mr Mitchell bought a half share in the Davis claim on this creek, and arrived here about a month ago, with the intention of of working in the claim, and has been so employed for two weeks past. About 7 o'clock on Friday evening last, while he was being lowered down the shaft, from some unaccountable cause, he was precipitated to the bottom, and received such injuries as to terminate his life that evening about 12 o'clock. It appears that after he had been lowered about twenty feet he called to the breakesman to stop, which was instantly done, and the next moment the man heard the dull heavy sound of his fall. He must have fallen at least thirty-six feet, and it was evident that he went down head first, from the severe contusions to be seen on his head and face. He was carried in an insensible state to his cabin, and received the immediate aid of Drs. Carrol and Bell. Deceased writhed in great agony, but gradually sank from exhaustion, and expired without one moment's consciousness. On Saturday the flags in town were raised half mast high, out of respect for the deceased. Yesterday his remains were conveyed to the graveyard at Cameronton, accompanied by one of the largest processions we have yet seen on the creek. Deceased was from St. Marys, Canada West, and 32 years of age.

THE DEATH OF MR MITCHELL—It is always sad to learn that one from whom we have parted a few hours or days before, in the enjoyment of health and manly vigor with bright hopes and aspirations, has been cut down—"the golden bowl broken,"—the glowing promise that hope reflected in the mirror of futurity, forever obscured by the chill breath of death. Than Mr Mitchell, no member of this community gave greater promise of a long and useful career—young, talented and fitted by birth and education to adorn any position in life to which he might have been called, he has fallen a sudden victim to one of those strange, unaccountable accidents that no human agency can explain. The only surviving son of a widowed mother, Mr Mitchell came to this country, and after five long years of faithful toil, fortune had just consented to smile upon his efforts and reward his hitherto unrequited toil, when he was hurried with scarcely a moment's warning into the presence of his Maker! How forcibly the solemn admonition, "Be ye also ready," should come home to every heart, and teach us to realize that, while we think "we stand we fall," and that "in the midst of life we are in death!"

FOR CALIFORNIA—The steamship Active, with twenty-five passengers, sailed Saturday at 6 p.m. for San Francisco. Among the passengers we observed Capt Bazzlegate and Lieut Cooper, late of the San Juan Garrison, Hon Capt Stamp, Mrs John Wright and Miss Armstrong, Mrs Thain and Mrs Captain Thain, Mr Henderson, of the Bank of British Columbia, Messrs Yates, Anderson, Brown, Marsden, Solomon, and Talbot. One intending passenger—a lady—missed her passage, the steamer moving from the wharf just as she reached the edge. The day was delightfully fine, and everything betokened a pleasant run down.

LEECH RIVER QUARTZ—R. H. Johnson, who has just returned from a prospecting tour in the vicinity of Leech River, has sent us several specimens of quartz-rock that have a favorable appearance. The ledge is well defined, being 2½ feet thick. Some specimens, said to be silver, accompany the quartz. Another party will start out from Leech River in a few days to continue the explorations.

MELANCHOLY—Letters received in town announce the probable loss of Mr Wm. H Daniels, of this city, who sailed many months since from Honolulu for Aust alia, and has never been heard of. The ship is supposed to have gone down with all on board. Mr Daniels, who was a most estimable young gentleman, was formerly in the employ of Hon Mr Southgate, and was a prominent member of the Victoria Amateur Dramatic Club.

ARRIVAL FROM SHANGHAE—The ship Eunice Nicholas, Captain Simons, 43 days from Shanghae, China, in ballast, arrived in Royal Roads yesterday. She reports very bad weather almost the entire passage. The Nicholas brings five passengers. She is 1100 tons burthen, and is a beautiful and roomy vessel. She will carry a cargo of spars to England.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION—The Bishop of Columbia, yesterday afternoon, at the Cathedral, administered the rite of confirmation to seventeen young persons. There was a large attendance of members of other con- [illegible] mony. His lordship was assisted by the Dean and the Rev. F. Gribbell, Rector of St. John's.

CHARGE OF FALSE PRETENCE—A man giving the name of James Smith, but whose real name is James Irvine, was brought before the Police Magistrate Saturday on a charge of obtaining goods from Jacob Valentine upon the faith of a forged order alleged to have been signed by M. Rowland. The man, who is said to be an old offender, was remanded.

BRIEF MENTION.—Rev. Mr Browning, at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, yesterday, preached an impressive service upon the subject of the death of Mr Mitchell....A one-half share in the Reid Claim, Cariboo, has been sold for $240 by the Administrator ....Island strawberries of the choicest varieties, are now sold at all the restaurants.

FROM BURRARD INLET—The steamer Isabel returned from Burrard Inlet early yesterday morning. On Saturday the Isabel met the ship Siam, bound for the mills under sail, and towed her to the Inlet. The vessels in the Inlet are the ships Siam and Astarte, and the bark Princess Royal.

LUMBER SHIPS COMING—Captain Stamp, who sailed for San Francisco on Saturday, will charter several ships to load with spars and lumber at his mills. At present freights rule high in consequence of the great demand for wheat at the East.

WITHDRAWN.—After several postponements, it has finally been decided by the steamship company not to despatch a vessel to Sitka from San Francisco. The enterprise, it appears, would not pay. Few passengers and but little freight offered.

BOARD OF EDUCATION—The Board of Education of this Island is now composed as follows: W. J. Macdonald, W. F. Tolmie, I. W. Powell, T. Trounce, D. Cameron, T. L. Wood, L. Franklin, F. Garesche, and D. W. Higgins.

FORTY-NINE CREEK.—Mr Rosse, who ately arrived from these diggings, confirms the intelligence given in our last issue with regards to this creek. He says that there are only three or four claims paying—at the rate of $4 a day.—*Examiner*.

DROWNED.—On Wednesday noon, a canoe in which were an Indian and klootchman, got into a whirlpool at the mouth of the Squamish river, and upset. The Indian managed to save himself, but the klootchman was drowned.—*Examiner*.

Cariboo.

(From the Cariboo Sentinel, May 27.)

WILLIAMS CREEK.

We have but little mining news to record this week that will excite the attention of our readers at a distance, although every step in the progress of a claim is viewed with interest by those residing here, and for that reason we are more minute sometimes in our particulars.

Some little interest was felt last week by the discovery of a channel 300 feet back in the hill behind the old Downie claim. It appears that a company called the West Britain co'y bottomed a shaft at 47 feet and got a prospect of $2 50 to the pan, and are preparing to wash. Bradley Nicholson co'y and Taylor co'y are hard at work ground sluicing. Wide West co'y are making about wages. Forward co'y are setting their sluices, and will commence washing to-day. McLaren co'y have commenced hydraulicing. The creek claims from the Wilson co'y down to Richfield, have all begun to ground sluice, and will not clean up for some time. The Bed Rock Flume co'y are busy blasting rock and laying their flume, and will be ready, it is expected, to ground sluice in the course of another week or ten days. The bench or hill claims between Richfield and the canyon will not be worked until sufficient water can be obtained from the Flume co'y's ditch. The Chipps co'y, below the canyon, have just bottomed their shaft, and will start washing next week. El Dorado (tunnel) are still prospecting. Baldhead co'y have been busy part of last week building their dam, but washed up enough to pay expenses. Drain co'y are now within 30 or 40 feet of the old Mitchel's shaft, which when reached, will partly tap the Sheep Skin co'y. Hibernia co'y washed up the dirt that was taken out of their shaft, and had 9½ oz. Camp co'y are sinking a new shaft. Cariboo co'y washed up on Wednesday 47 oz. Davis co'y washed up for week 130 oz. Borealis co'y washed up for week 100 oz. Lillooet co'y are running a drift to turn the bed rock drain out of ground they want to work. Never Sweat co'y are setting sluices and getting ready to wash. Moffat co'y are washing surface tailings. Cameron co'y are making expenses. Prairie Flower co'y having finished their tunnel, will commence washing to-day [illegible] in something less than three weeks, by working three eight hour shifts.

Most of the claims below the Cameron co'y are flooded with water.

STOUTS GULCH.

The water is plentiful in this gulch, and the different companies are taking advantage of it. Floyd co'y having during the winter enlarged and secured their tunnel, and laid therein a capacious flume, have managed to open their diggings, which were badly caved, from the surface; they will now be able to work their ground advantageously, and will take out some big pay in the course of the season. Alturas co'y, who have a drain through the whole length of their claim, are erecting a wheel and hoisting gear, so as to work from a shaft as well as an open tunnel; when they get in thorough working order they will employ about 30 men; this claim will also pay well. Taftvale co'y, after raising a shaft at the upper end of the last named company's tunnel, to a depth of 60 feet, were drowned out by a heavy stream of surface water; they are now endeavoring to find the shaft by running a cut on the surface. Jenkins co'y started washing from their new shaft on Thursday; this shaft is 300 feet above the old one, thus making the length of their drain tunnel about 1500 feet. Mucho Oro co'y have been unable so far to pump out their shaft; it is their intention to run a drain tunnel from the last named co'y so as to connect their ground and drain it. El Dorado co'y bottomed their shaft on Saturday and got fair prospects, they will commence drifting and washing to-day.

CONKLIN GULCH.

A great deal of work is being carried on in this gulch, but no rich strikes have yet been made, although great confidence is still felt in ultimate success. Ericcson co'y washed out for last week 60 oz. United co'y washed out 124 oz. on Wednesday and 131 oz. on Sunday, making 225 oz. for the week; a dividend was declared of $300 to the share. Reid co'y will start pumping out their diggings to-day; it is now supposed that a portion of the United co's lead run through this claim.

WALKER GULCH.

Two companies are at work in this gulch ground sluicing; neither of them have washed up yet.

M'CULLUM GULCH.

There are four companies, numbering in all 11 men, at work here prospecting.

ITEMS.

The Borealis co'y washed up last Sunday, May 19th, 156 oz. for three shifts, and divided for week ending at that date $250 to the interest.

During the present week the general revenue has been unusually large as compared with the receipts of the same period last year.

We have just seen Mr. Michael, who has wintered on Showshoe Creek, and he informs us that the company to which he belongs commenced washing about two weeks ago, and are making from $10 to $15 a day to the hand. The pay is found by washing five to six feet of the surface gravel. It is believed that there are good paying diggings for several miles along the banks of this creek.