The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, May 29, 1866.

Up-country News.

LATER FROM CARIBOO

The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday afternoon with 50 passengers among whom were 30 returned Big Benders, many of whom never got as far as the mines Those who did get there say they were too early, and did not see any prospect of doing anything for some time to come, and thought it more prudent to return. The Enterprise also brought Barnard's Cariboo and Big Bend Express.

Our Special correspondent's letter from Big Bend appears elsewhere.

Dates from Cariboo are to the 15th inst. From our up-country exchanges and from other sources we gather the following news. The *Sentinel's* news has mostly been anticipated by telegraph.

WILLIAMS CREEK.

The season had been backward and the snow being deep had kept the water low for miners, but there had been a favorable change in the weather and operations were being carried on vigorously and to advantage. The prospects are acknowledged on all sides to be most cheering, and the greatest confidence was felt in the yield of the mines this season. Extensive preparations were being made for working claims above Richfield, where some of the companies have been making fair wages all winter.

The Bed Rock Flume Company had been blasting extensively and got through the most difficult part of their work. Its speedy completion was looked upon as a matter of certainty.

The Moffat Company, which yielded well formerly, and the Caledonia and Arabian companies were in a fair way to turn out good pay again this year, as were also the Watson, Davis, and Aurora companies. The last named had washed up 135 ozs. in three days out of their new tunnel.

Judge Cox had granted an injunction restraining the Davis Company from working ground claimed by the Aurora Company. The foreman stated in court that the Davis Company did not intend to work the ground n question.

The Foster, Campbell Company are at work with good prospects.

The claims in the creek near Barkerville are awaiting the completion of the drain, which will be up in about two months, as they are working it out of the Cariboo shaft now.

The Cameron Company, Dead-Broke Company and Adams Company, have been paying more than wages all winter.

The Forest Rose have struck pay in their new tunnel.

The Prairie Flower Company have commenced work by running a new tunnel and drain to facilitate their operations this season. This claim is expected to be a "big thing" this year.

The Tontine, Forest Hill and other hill claims, down to the canon, are going to be worked with hydraulic power, and are ready to commence as soon as the water commences to flow freely.

STOUT'S GULCH.

Hill Tunnels in this gulch adjoining Conklin's Gulch had opened a large channel, and their prospects were most encouraging.

GROUSE CREEK.

This creek still attracted considerable attention. The Discovery Company were taking out very big pay from the channel which they had struck in their tunnel 200 feet into the hill. The whole of the ground was taken up and several tunnels were commenced. The Montgomery had struck what was supposed to be the same lead as the Discovery.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Nearly 1500 acres of wheat will be grown in Lillooet district this season.

Jim Sellars, of Beaver Lake, has purchased a ranch at Kamloops where he will commence farming.

A large number of men had passed through Yale en route to Big Bend; the population of those mines at latest dates was set down at 2500.

LETTER FROM BIG BEND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

FRENCH CREEK, May 8th, 1866.

The steamboat on the Columbia River has, according to general anticipation here, proved a success, as she made her first trip some days ago, coming up to the foot of the Death Rapids. In turning around to go down the river again she grounded and knocked a hole or two in her bottom, but it was all repaired in a couple of hours. She brought up forty tons of freight and about seventy passengers; the charges for which were—freight, $200 per ton, and passengers $25 each. The first store on French Creek has been opened by a Columbia river man; shame on you Vancouver Island and British Columbians! What is the matter? Are you all asleep? I suppose some will say, "Oh, we could'nt come sooner, because there was snow on the trail!" Why, some of the boats coming up the Columbia had to drag boat, load and all, over the ice as far as eighteen miles on a stretch. We have now on the creek two provision stores, a whisky shop and a blacksmith shop; Pearson Brothers, tinsmiths, formerly on Fort Street, Victoria, are here, but have not commenced business yet. The prices of goods at present are as follows:—Bacon, $1 75 ⅌ lb; flour, 65c; beans, $1; sugar, 1 25; dried apples, $1 50; tea, $3 25; tobacco, $5; picks and shovels, $9 each. During the last few days a large number of men have arrived on all the creeks, and a great many are busily employed putting up cabins and commencing to mine. Several good prospects have been found by different companies on Clement's Creek, but I have heard of no one reaching the bed-rock this season, except in one or two places in the benches, in which cases nothing of any account was found. Camp Creek, which is the first creek emptying into Gold River from its mouth, is now attracting some attention, a number of claims on which are being prospected, but I have not heard of anything being struck except by the Discovery claim, which I believe was partly opened last year. On Clement's creek the old companies are working with good results, but what the pay of any particular claim is I am unable to say; one of the new companies are reported to be making $25 a day to the hand. On this (French) creek but one or two companies have commenced to wash, as yet, but all are getting ready, and in my next I hope to give you a good account of the pay. Downie Creek, emptying into the Columbia near Kirbysville, is now well spoken of, a rich strike having been reported there. Judge O'Reilly arrived on French Creek two or three days ago, and has been busy issuing licenses and recording claims; French Creek is now claimed for some seven or more miles, as well as one or two small creeks emptying into it. Parties are out prospecting, some having gone, even this early, over the Divide to the other side of the Big Bend, although I think they are entirely too early to do any effective prospecting. Quite a number of men have left here already, having been led to believe that the diggings would be much easier to work than now appears to be the case, and only being provided with a month or two's supplies, and no money to buy more with; they either did not prospect at all or only until their supplies were nearly exhausted, when, not having found pay or the bed-rock, they were compelled to leave. Nothing in the shape of clothing, or boots and shoes, has yet arrived here. We expect to be able to get fresh beef in a couple of weeks. The Discovery Co., in preparing for work washed a lot of loose dirt, as much to get it out of the way as anything else, and got about five ounces out of it a day or two ago. The Munro Co. yesterday commenced working, and in two hours took out ten ounces to four men. The Half-breed Co. (adjoining) also commenced washing yesterday, but with what result I do not know. Building is going on actively here at present, mostly on speculation. No Express yet, and we are all anxious for news. I will write again soon. W. E. O.

COLLINS TELEGRAPH EXPLORATION.

RETURN OF MAJOR POPE.

Among the passengers by the Hudson Bay Company's steamer Otter, which arrived on Thursday, was Major F. L. Pope, assistant engineer of the Western Union Telegraph Company, who has just returned from an overland exploration between the Fraser and Stekin rivers, accompanied by Mr. George Blenkinsop, of this city, and two Indians from the interior. Major Pope left Victoria on May 27th, 1865, with a party of some 25 men, who were engaged during the summer in exploring and opening a trail between Quesnelmouth and Nakosla, or Stuart Lake. A portion of the party returned at the close of the season, and the remainder established a post and wintered at the northern end of Lake Tatla, a beautiful sheet of water sixty miles in length, from which flows the northwestern arm of the Fraser. The establishment was named Bulkley House, in honor of Col. C. S. Bulkley, Engineer-in-Chief of the Telegraph Company. The weather at Bulkley House, which is situated in latitude 56° north, was very fine during the winter, though extremely cold, the mercury freezing for several days in succession about the middle of January.

As soon as the snow became in any degree practicable for travelling, three exploring parties were sent out. One of these, under Captain J. L. Butler, left Bulkley House on January 2d, and reached New Westminster *via* Fort Simpson a few days since. Another party in charge of Dr. J. P. Rothrock, is engaged in exploring the country about the head of Finlay river. Major Pope and party left Lake Tatla on February 19th for Stekin river, accompanied by a small dog train carrying provisions. No guide could be procured, and little or no knowledge of the country obtained, as none of the Indians had ever been any distance in that direction. The little party notwithstanding pushed boldly forward into the unknown wilderness, taking a course as nearly northwest as the country would admit. A fine valley was found leading in this general direction for nearly 175 miles, terminating in a beautiful prairie. A small stream, a yard in width, flowing from this prairie, proved to be the source of the Stekin river. The utmost difficulty was experienced in penetrating as far as this point, owing principally to the softness and great depth of the snow, which was five, and in many places even ten, feet in depth, rendering travelling on snow-shoes a matter of great difficulty. The explorers, in addition to drawing the dog sledge themselves, were frequently obliged to carry the dogs, the snow being so light that the animals were actually unable to make their way through it. But perseverance finally conquered all obstacles, and after reaching the head of Stekin river the travelling greatly improved. The party followed the river, which is extremely crooked, as far as the head of the cañon. The latter was partially avoided by passing over the plateau on the north side. The explorers reached Buck's Bar on the 20th April, and finding the river broken up below, they built a boat and came down to the mouth, which they reached the day before the Otter left. The whole distance traversed on snow-shoes was but little short of 500 miles, and the greater portion of the country explored has never before been visited by the white man. The party were out 70 days from the time of leaving Bulkley House until they reached the Otter.

Major Pope reports a fine country on the Upper Stekin, and on the 1st of April, when he passed, the snow had completely disappeared from the benches on each side of the river. But very few Indians were met with, and these treated the voyageurs with the utmost hospitality. Two miners, James Shoff and J. Hoagland, wintered at Buck's Bar, and were out on a prospecting tour, from which they returned the day after the telegraph party arrived there. They report gold in paying quantities in a number of places, were it not for the difficulty of getting in provisions. They are making good wages in their own claim at Buck's Bar. Two boats with some half-a-dozen miners were also met coming up the river, with provisions and tools. Only one or two houses are now standing on the former site of Shakesville.

The route surveyed by Major Pope is understood to be extremely favorable for the speedy construction of the telegraph. The distance from New Westminster to the point where the line will cross Stekin River is about 1050 miles, nearly 500 of which is already completed, and the work will be pushed forward during the present season with great energy.

CENSUS OF THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

The Liverpool European *Times* has the following:—

Of the counties in England, exclusive of the metropolitan police district, two remain free from the disease; in ten no cases have been reported as occuring during the week; 14 show an increase of 1239 cases; 16 a decrease of 2932; a total decrease during the week in the counties of England of 1693 cases. The metropolitan police district shows the same number of cases as in the previous week; two show a decrease of 155; a total decrease during the week in the counties of Wales of 155 cases. Of the counties in Scotland, 10 remain free from the disease; in 18 no cases have been reported as occurring during the week; four show an increase of 71 cases; 12 show a decrease of 1080; a total decrease during the week in the counties of Scotland of 1009 cases. Of the counties in England, Wales, and Scotland 22 remain free from the disease; in 38 no cases have been reported as occuring during the week; 18 show an increase of 1310 cases; 30 show a decrease of 4167; a total decrease during the week ending March 3, 1866, in England, Wales, and Scotland, of 2857 cases, as compared with the week ending February 24, 1866. The operation of the Cattle Diseases Prevention Act, 1866, is indicated by the return this week showing 5197 cattle as "killed," compared with 1711 last week, and 980 the previous week. 246 inspectors have not reported this week in time for this return; of these, 22 reported cases last week, viz:—For the county of Chester, 1; Derby, 1; Lancaster, 3; Lincoln, 1; Norfolk, 1; Stafford, 1; East Riding of York, 1; West Riding of York, 2; the metropolitan police district, 1; Flint, 2; and for Scotland, 8. These Inspectors returned 1281 cases last week.

The following were the returns from England, Wales, and Scotland.

	ENG.	W'LS.	SC'TD.	TOTAL.
Farms, &c., where the disease has appeared	16,415	688	3,396	20,499
Cattle in those places	265 165	10,558	73,989	349,712
Slaughtered healthy	26,418	500	12,163	39,081
Attacked - -	136,119	7,188	43,752	187 059
Killed for security	21,324	126	4 685	26,135
Died - - -	86,078	5 70[illegible]	25 879	117,664
Recovered - -	15,744	939	9,363	26,106

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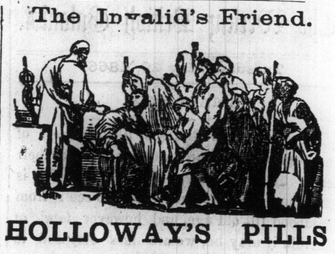

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