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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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AGENTS.

S. D. Levi	Nanaimo, V. I
Holder & Hart	Comox, do
Sam'l Harris	Cowichan
Clarkson & Co	New Westminster
Barnard's Express	Quesnelle, B.C
do do	Lytton
do do	Vanwinkle
do do	Richfield
do do	Barkervill
do do	Cameron town
do do	Clinton
L. P. Fisher	San Francisco
Hudson & McCarty	do
F. Algar	11 Clement's Lane, London
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Reciprocity.

One of the first and best lessons for a man to learn is that he is not independent of others for those things in life which are most worth enjoying. It is well also for nations to learn the same truth, and the sooner they learn it the better. In the pride of success, America, some time since, spurned reciprocity with Canada, with the object of ruining her; but she has been taught the folly of the act, and is now anxious to retrace her steps. It must be somewhat humiliating, considering all the circumstances, for a country like America to be compelled to acknowledge her error; and we may be assured that had she not felt it bitterly, the Senate would never have instructed the Foreign Relations Committee to inquire into the expediency of making a treaty with England for reciprocity with Canada, as we are informed by the telegraph on Tuesday it did. Of course, the words, to inquire into the expediency of the measure, is only a mild way of putting it to save their dignity. The expediency of reciprocity with Canada has long been known, felt and acknowledged in America, and the real meaning of the instructions given by the Senate is simply whether it can possibly be obtained. It is difficult now to surmise which way public feeling runs in Canada on this question. Her commerce, trade, agriculture, ship building and other material interests have so increased and expanded since reciprocity was withdrawn, that we doubt whether she is, as a nation, inclined just now to re-establish what was so ungenerously taken from her; nor do we see, under the present system of government, how England with all her love for free trade, can dictate such terms to the Dominion. If reciprocity is revived, some think it should be conceded only on the condition of British Columbia being included in the treaty. Much as we are divided just now on questions of policy, we doubt whether there is any one thing we are more divided in opinion upon than reciprocity. In deciding upon the question, we must remember that between two countries, wherein this evidently wise and just principle is adopted, there can be no equal advantage where there is no equal produce. As far as we are concerned reciprocity would be of great advantage to our coal and lumber interests, which, however, are increasing without it; but we should have to take all the American cottons, boots, clothing, etc., to the prejudice of our own, which is, perhaps, more than a standoff. Up as far as New Westminster reciprocity would also injure our farmers, but from the start the interior now has in the produce of cereals and live stock, foreign produce could not compete with our own successfully beyond there. Perhaps our Saanich, Cowichan, Comax and Fraser River farmers, having now found out what they can do under a protecting tariff, would persevere, and bring ton per ton into the market as advantageously as the farmers from Oregon and Washington Territory. To America at the present time, in her shipbuilding especially, reciprocity would be of immense advantage, but it is doubtful whether she will get it restored yet awhile. If England encourages the idea the Dominion probably would not oppose it, provided it is proved to be to her advantage. When the answer of England is received to the overtures of the American Senate, those who favor the principle here, might through Canada perhaps obtain it for British Columbia, by making her admission the condition of the treaty.

The Comox Coal Company.

Upon inquiry we are happy to find this company, as will be seen in another column, are not idle by any means. They have a number of men at work and in their investigations of late have traced the seam to a short distance from the water. At this point they intend driving a prospect, which if successful will enable them immediately to open the mine. The process by which this prospect is to be made, is by the drill worked with a spring beam and ropes, such as commonly used in California in sinking Artesian and Petroleum wells. It is a simple, but cheap, expeditious and efficient way of working. We have seen this process used in Santa Clara County 500 feet and in Santa Barbara County 750 feet deep, through gravel, metamorphic, slate and granite to the sandstone with perfect success. Through the sandstone of Comox it ought to cut from 7 to 10 feet a day if properly used. It is a wise action this on the part of the company, for the expense of the prospect will be comparatively trifling, but if successful, it will save them large sums for a tram-way and other things necessary to make the works complete. The best feature of this arrangement is, that should they be successful in finding coal near the water they will have means enough within themselves to open the mine thoroughly; if not they return to the old works, and complete the original plans, though doing so will involve a large outlay. We have all occasion to wish the Company the fullest success in their enterprising operations.

Friday, July 31.

Esquimalt.

At a meeting held in the School Room by the Parishoners of Esquimalt on the 28th of July, 1868, at 7:30 p. m.

Mr Thompson in the chair, and after the object of the meeting was explained by the chairman:

The following resolution was moved by Mr Weller, and seconded by Mr Sellick.

Resolved—That the action taken by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, with respect to the removal of the Rev. A. C. Garrett from this District, and the appointment of a successor without first consulting the Congregation and inhabitants of this District, has resulted in a feeling of discontent, and that our spiritual welfare appears to have been entirely disregarded; that St Pauls Church, to which we have all so liberally subscribed for the erection and maintenance may be considered as virtually closed against us. Therefore it is incumbent on the inhabitants of this District to take action to provide themselves with the Services of a suitable Minister. Carried unanimously.

Mr Wilby, after addressing the meeting, proposed the following resolution, seconded by Mr Dodds.

Resolved—That this meeting do forthwith elect a Committee of three to wait on the inhabitants of the Town of Esquimalt, and ascertain how many of them desire the Rev. Mr Somerville to come and officiate in this town: The said Committee to wait on Mr Somerville and obtain his sanction, and also to take steps for obtaining the use of a room and otherwise to carry out the wishes of this meeting. Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr Tarte seconded by Mr Howard, that the following gentlemen be a committee to carry out the above resolution, viz:—Messrs Wilby, Sellick, Weller and the Chairman. Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr Hudson seconded by Mr McKinnon that a vote of thanks be given to the Chairman and Secretary. Carried.

Proposed by Mr Weller seconded by Mr Hudson that a vote of thanks be given to Mr Sellick for his kindness, &c., in granting us the use of a room for Divine Worship Carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

Municipal Council.

Tuesday, July 28.

His Worship the Mayor presiding; other Councillors present—Lewis, Gibbs, Jeffery, and McKay.

An application from the property holders on Fisguard and Blanchard streets for grading said streets, and stating that subscriptions to the amount of $145 have been promised towards the expense of the said work, read. On motion the communication was ordered to be received and referred to the Street Committee who were authorized to call for tenders for said work.

Communication from the Churchwardens of St. John's Church, read, calling the attention of the Council to the inconvenience caused the public by the removal of the street crossing at the junction of Douglas and Johnson streets. Ordered that the Clerk notify the property holders they have either to lower the side-walk at that point or to lay down a proper street crossing. Carried.

Application of Hayward & Jenkinson for permission to use a portion of Courtney and Gordon streets while building St Andrew's Church, read. On motion permission was granted subject to supervision of Street Committee.

Communication from A W Davy & Co., applying for the office of Poundkeeper, read. On motion consideration deferred.

An amended tender from F W Green for the construction of the new culvert crossing Blanchard street to connect with Yates street brick culvert, read. Consideration deferred.

The Council adjourned till Tuesday next, 4th August.

Cricket Match.—A match was played yesterday by Eleven of the Fleet and Eleven of the Mainland, resulting in an easy victory for the former. The Mainlanders went to the wicket first, and scored 72 in the first and 53 in the second innings. The Fleet scored 112 in the first innings, leaving only 14 runs to win, which they got with the loss of only two wickets. Mr Guerra, of the Mainland, is credited with the best batting, having made the highest score of the day, 28. Dr Black was next, with 16 runs. Mr Guerra's bowling is also highly spoken of, but the fielding of his eleven is condemned. Mr Fisher, of New Westminster, certainly fielded better than any of the Mainlanders, and made three very handsome catches. The highest score of the Fleet, 20, belongs to Mr Logan, whose batting was much admired. It was the superior fielding of the Fleet that won the match. It is reported that efforts will be made to have the Otter leave to-night instead of this morning, that the Victorians may play the Mainlanders. [Since writing the above it has been arranged that the match between the Victoria and Mainland Elevens will take place to-day. Play to commence at 11 a. m.]

From Nanaimo—The Sir James Douglas arrived last evening from Nanaimo and way ports with passengers—Rev. Mr Jenns and family amongst the number, a few head of stock and a small quantity of farm produce. Consequent on the recent trimming up of the steamer she made the run last time going up, calling at all the ports, in eight hours, having arrived at Nanaimo shortly after 3 p. m. At Nanaimo was the steamer Constantine, which arrived from Sitka on Wednesday; when finished coaling she will sail for San Francisco *via* this port. On Sunday last the Bishop of Columbia preached in the morning and evening to large congregations. In the afternoon a Confirmation Service was held by His Lordship, when 28 persons were confirmed. The citizens of the place, on the occasion of the departure from amongst them of the Rev. Mr Jenns, presented him with a purse of money as a slight token of the estimation in which he was held. The ship Shooting Star will be loaded about the middle of next week.

Another Fact—About the beginning of this month Milby and Hicks received a large cargo of goods in Kootenay from Portland. Had our trails been passable the toll duties upon the cargo would have been $500, which the Government lost in consequence. Besides this our merchants, hotel-keepers, packers, etc., lost their share which the purchase of the goods in Victoria instead of Portland, would have distributed amongst them. We have it on good authority that $2500 at the most will put the trail in repair so that four or five such trips would repay the expenditure. These are the losses which more than all others keep the Colony poor. Since writing the above we have learned the Government are thoroughly aroused to the importance of this question; and that steps have already been taken to remove this grievance at once and effectually. We are very glad to hear it.

Real Estate.—J P Davies & Co sold two lots yesterday. The first 'situate on Cadboro Bay road, and known on the town map as part of Section No. 1, Spring Ridge; 80 feet front by a depth of 70 feet, together with the improvements thereon, fine garden, good well of water,' etc., brought $160, which, all things taken into consideration, may be regarded as an advanced price. The second lot, known on the official map of Victoria as No. 11, Spring Ridge, containing one acre (more or less) between Yates and View streets,' brought $200. The sale was by order and on account of the mortgagee. There were other town lots put up, but not sold at the price offered. They were old brick yards, and consequently the best soil taken from them, but still $65 a lot was not considered enough. After the sale four lots at the corner of North Park and Quadra streets were sold privately, realizing $162 50 each. One year ago these same lots sold at $50 each.

Agricultural Exhibition.—The following is the list of the officers and directors of this society. At a meeting yesterday a committe was appointed to prepare the list of premiums, which will be published as soon as possible: Officers—Dr Tolmie, President; J D Pemberton, Dr Davie, Vice-Presidents; R Burnaby, Treasurer; J C Bales, Secretary. Directors—A C Anderson, Saanich; Robt Anderson, Lockend; R Browne, Saanich; Mr Drinkwater, Cowichan; E H Jackson, A J Langley, D Lenevue, J D Pemberton, Dr Davie, R Dickinson, James Lowe, T J Skinner, C S Nicol, Dr Tolmie, Wm Thompson, Robt Weir, J Botterrell, John Parker, Archdeacon Reece, and Woods, T Harris, F Foord, Jas Robb, M Muir, Mr McMicking G Booth.

Baynes' Sound Coal Mine—We have learned since our article in yesterday morning's paper that the Baynes' Sound Coal Co. are engaged busily upon their mine. They have traced the coal below a fault which crossed it, between where it cropped out and the harbor; and they are now having a boring machine constructed by Messrs Spratt & Kriemler of this city, such as has been recently invented and used in Pennsylvania, for the purpose of tracing the coal to the harbor. The machinery will be sent up on the Douglas on Tuesday next. Should they succeed in finding the coal near the water, it will do away with the necessity for a tram-road, and lessen very much the expense of working the mine.

An English Testimonial to Field.—A national testimonial to a deserving American is on the *tapis* in London. The Duke of Argyle, Lord Carnarvon and others, who took the lead in the dinner given in London this week, have telegraphed to the Governors of all the English colonies, 42 or so in number—asking them to inaugurate testimonial funds to the author of ocean telegraphy. The despatch to Gov. Seymour of Vancouver Island, signed by Argyle and Carnarvon, passed through San Francisco two days ago.—*S. F. Paper.*

Vice-Regal Visit—It is reported that His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Seymour pay a visit soon to New Westminster for a couple of weeks. It would greatly satisfy public desire of his Excellency moved round more, and in other ways do much good. After visiting New Westminster let him witness the beautiful sight to be seen at present in the agricultural districts of Cowichan and Saanich. He will see much to instruct; and learn besides that the settlers would appreciate the visit. His Excellency no doubt is too much of a hermit.

Sitka Correspondence.—We have received a batch of Sitka news from our correspondent per Constantine, now at Nanaimo, which will appear to-morrow. The most important news to be reported is that of a U S officer who was accidentally shot while out hunting; a discharged soldier was stabbed by a man who had also been discharged. The wounded man was taken to the Hospital and has since died. A new seam of coal is reported. There has been a case of suicide and two marriages since our last. The Louisa Downs has been wrecked, but the crew were saved.

James Bay Bridge.—We are desired by His Worship the Mayor to caution the public of the dangerous condition of this bridge. A communication complaining of its present state, has been received by the City Corporation from a respectable citizen. Therefore horsemen and foot passengers will do well to be careful on crossing.

Police Court.—Edward Bellington was given in charge by William Arthur, charged with not being under proper care and control. Remanded for one week for safe keeping.

County Court.

Fell & Co *vs* Reece—Postponed till next Tuesday.

Cleal *vs* Dalby—Nonsuited.

Gerow *vs* Stokes—Adjourned till to-day at 10 o'clock.

Gerow & Bryant *vs* Stokes—Adjourned till to-day at 10 o'clock.

Smith *vs* Joseph—Judgment for $130, to be paid by monthly instalments of $10.

Wren *vs* Eden—Set for trial to-day.

Stokes *vs* Bryant— Do. do.

Nathan & Co *vs* Joseph— do.

Reopening of the Public Free Schools. The Central School, Fort street, and the District School will both be reopened on Monday next, August 3rd, for the admission of pupils. All who are purposing to avail themselves of the benefit of free education are requested to do so at the commencement of the term.

Sunday School Address.

Reverend and Dear Sir,—On the eve of the termination of your connection with the St John's Church School, as officiating minister of the Church, we the Superintendent and teachers of the school beg to express our regret at parting from you, and our warmest thanks for your earnest labors on behalf of the school for the past two years. We would also tender you our congratulations on your appointment to the highest position in connection with education that exists in the Colony. To yourself and Mrs Gribbell, as teachers in the school and fellow laborers with us, we must say farewell; we at the same time sincerely trust that our loss will be your gain. In conclusion, we wish you every success in your new sphere and may health and prosperity in this world and happiness in the next be your portion.

I am, Rev and Dear Sir,
Yours in all sincerity,
RICHARD WOODS
Superintendent,
And on behalf of the teachers of
St. John's Sunday School.

Victoria, July 29th, 1868.

Law of Libel in Parliament.

Sir C. O'Loghlen's often-debated Libel Bill, which was introduced before Christmas, came on for Committee, and the opposition offered to it on former stages was renewed, and on the same grounds.

Mr Newdegate moved its rejection, objecting to the transfer of responsibility for the publication of a libel from the newspaper to the speaker, and also to relieving the newspaper editor from the duty of carefully revising all that he publishes.

Mr Roebuck supported the bill on the ground that it is for the public interest that truth should be propagated, and that all the proceedings of public meetings should be known.

Mr T Chambers made a long speech against the bill, denying that it is always advantageous that truth should be propagated, and pointing out that a slander which would be harmless when spoken in a small public meeting became infinitely mischievous when published in a widely-circulated newspaper.

The bill was also opposed on the same argument by Mr Coleridge, who objected that it gave the remedy against the wrong person; by the Solicitor-General, who urged that the bill was a protection to careless newspaper editors which was not required by newspapers honorably conducted; by Mr Dillwyn, the Attorney General for Ireland, and Mr Whalley.

On the other hand, Mr Neate, the Attorney General, Mr Lawson, Mr Goldsmith Mr Buxton and Lord Amberley urged the House to go into Committee.

On a division, the stage was carried by 108 to 38, and the House went into Committee on the bill.

The remainder of the sitting was spent in considering the first clauses. On clause 3, which makes the speaker of slander at a public meeting subject to the same liabilities as the writer of a libel, there was a long discussion. Sir R. Collier moved its omission, and Sir C. O'Loghlen offered to postpone it for the purpose of bringing it up in an amended form; but its opponents insisted on negativing it. On a division, the postponement was carried by 89 to 54, and at this point the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

What Goes by Telegraph.—At one of the eastern telegraph offices, recently, the following message, written on tinted paper, was handed to the operator for transmission by telegraph: 'To ——. Send us two thousand billheads printed on paper *the quality and color of this.*' The writer evidently supposed the dispatch could be transmitted over the wires and the original delivered to his correspondent.

NOTICE.—J. Brunn & Co. will dispose of their entire stock of Custom-made Clothing, Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods Hats and Caps, together with the Store Shelves, Counters, Glass Show Cases, &c., and a large Fire Proof Safe, at auction prices to suit everybody.—J Brunn & Co., corner Yates and Langley streets.