

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, June 12, 1866.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN JUDICIARY.

If England has a deserved pre-eminence over other countries in any function of Government it is in her judiciary. However much the people of the United States may rail at the expense and injury of monarchical rule, and the overweening influence of the higher classes, they are all compelled to admit that no more august tribunal exists on the globe than the judicial Bench of England. An English judge is the personification of all that is immaculate in erring man. Unimpeachable in integrity, unapproachable in his knowledge of human nature, and rarely surpassed in judgment and learning, he forms one of the great bulwarks of the nation against oppression and wrong doing. It would be a happy thing if we could say the same of the men sent out to dispense the law in the infancy of British colonies. Too frequently the colonial judge forgets the sacred character of his office, dabbles in unseemly speculation, and mixes himself up in the quarrels of the community over which he is called upon to preside. From such a moment justice sheathes his sword, packs up his scales, and turns his back on the court of law. Unfortunate for the country and unfortunate ultimately for the judge when this evacuation takes place—there is but one step between corruption and confusion, between arbitrary injustice and anarchical inflexion—between Judge Lucre and Judge Lynch. We would be very sorry to say that there is any probability of either of these colonies falling into that deplorable and dangerous condition when the people lose all faith in the administration of the law, but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that Judge Begbie, the only judge in British Columbia, is creating very serious apprehensions in the public mind of the neighboring colony. We have already chronicled more than one instance, and in more than one place, where he has coolly set at defiance the sacred verdict of a jury, and almost every newspaper from British Columbia brings us some additional instance of his judicial eccentricity. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that Judge Begbie may on all these occasions have been right and the public wrong; but we cannot lose sight of the circumstance that he was appointed to his judgeship at a time when it required as a qualification for that position more of determination than of legal knowledge—at a time, in fact, and under such circumstances that no man in England of any ordinary legal reputation would have accepted the appointment. On this ground, therefore, if on no other, we could not expect Judge Begbie to be a very brilliant dispenser of the law—unlike Judge Needham, he had no extensive legal experience to recommend him—and it is by no means a matter of surprise that his decisions, instead of partaking of that judicial clearness and point which are the universal characteristics of the decisions of English judges, should be generally rambling, disconnected and irrelevant. When we find a judge defining fraud under certain circumstances to be only "smartness," and charging the defendants in a mining dispute with "coveting Naboth's vineyard," however much we might be disposed to compliment him on his poetical illustration, we are rather inclined to think he ignores the staidness and succinctness of a judicial opinion. When we find him besides this arrogating to himself all the functions which right belong to a jury, we can only say British Columbia has got as her Supreme Judge a man who should not be another day in so important and exalted a position. At the present time there are great interests and grave interests in the mining regions of British Columbia, and there is, disastrous to the Government and its legal advisers be it said, an endless round of litigation, ruining claimholders, shutting up the country's wealth, and causing disasters among communities many hundred miles away from the scene of dispute. At such a time as the present, when British Columbia can afford to waste no portion of her productive energy, it is a serious thing to have a man like Judge Begbie the sole awardee of judicial decisions. We have by recent actions in the courts of law in British Columbia been made aware of the fact that no official is responsible for anything done by deputy—that the whole vested interests of the colony may be sold to-morrow and sacrificed; but that nobody is to blame; and on the heels almost of these extraordinary decisions of Judge Begbie, we find a collision between the Supreme Judge and the Gold Commissioner on Williams Creek, in which the latter refuses to issue an injunction from the Supreme Court at the order of the Judge. The reasons Mr. Cox assigns for his refusal are given elsewhere, and abundantly show the plight into which the administration of the law in the neighboring colony has fallen. Mr. Cox says he holds no commission as Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court and never held one, and therefore comes to the very natural conclusion that all his acts done were illegal. There is something more, however, in the affair than appears on the face of it. Mr. Cox or Judge Cox, as he is most frequently termed, is the most popular official that ever received an appointment in either colony. The roughest, as well as the most respectable miners in Cariboo mention his name with respect; for the simple reason that he has always been the rigid dispenser of justice, uninfluenced by wealth, position, fear or favor. On some occasions recently Judge Begbie has set Commissioner Cox's decisions aside, and indeed has set aside in chancery his own decisions of the Supreme Court. Whether Judge Begbie was right in any or all of these instances we do not pretend to say, but we know the general mining public are with the Gold Commissioner, and we know Judge Begbie's conduct has given as much dissatisfaction on Williams Creek as it has at New Westminster or Lillooet. We are told indeed by letters from Cariboo that there is every probability of the miners in one or two instances disregarding his decisions. We hope, however, that things will not come to such a pass; although troublous times are evidently, from the tone of the miners, brewing on Williams Creek. There is a universal feeling of indignation at the manner in which mining claims have been forced into litigation. No man knows now what he is buying. When one or two lawsuits are over and the parties in possession of the ground are left undisturbed, a person may purchase into a claim, fancying that litigation has spent itself; but he finds himself woefully mistaken; in a little while the dispute gets into chancery and he discovers when it is too late that his share, instead of being an interest in the proceeds of the claim, is a partnership in a ruinous lawsuit. The risks of mining are a mere bagatelle, it is the risks of Begbie's Chancery Court that now terrify the miner. Begbie has really become the bugbear of the colony, and the sooner the inhabitants call upon the Home Government to fill his place with a more suitable man the better.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday, June 8.

THE SHIP ROBBERY.—Kenneth Cameron was brought up on remand yesterday in the Police Court, on the charge of stealing \$110 in coin, and \$10 in gold dust, from Arthur Davey, steward of the Otter. Minnie Sweet disposed to having a ring given to her as a present by the prisoner, which ring was identified by Mr. Jamieson as having been sold to prisoner, together with another ring and a watch, at Mark's Jewelry store, on Saturday last. The girl did not want the ring, and declined to receive it back. Mr. Lush was also examined as to the amount of money possessed by the prisoner, when he visited his establishment. Mr. Hammond was examined touching the watch, which prisoner had deposited as security for money advanced. Captain Lewis stated that prisoner had \$50 when he was last paid. This testimony taken in connection with the depositions of Messrs. A. J. Welch, Geo. Welch, T. O'Connor, W. Jamieson and the prosecutor on the previous day, established a complete chain of evidence against the prisoner. Mr. Copland after addressing the Bench, pleaded guilty to having taken the two nuggets; but in consideration of the youth, and good character of the prisoner, asked the Magistrate to deal summarily and leniently with him, and not to suffer him to be confined with felons, pending a trial in the higher Court. The Magistrate said it was evident to him that wherever the nuggets went the money went also, and he could entertain no compromise of the guilt. If the prisoner would plead guilty to the whole charge, he would give him an opportunity of making all the restitution he could to the prosecutor, and if the latter repented to him, that prisoner had done so, he should take the circumstance into consideration in awarding the punishment. Mr. Copland said he would plead guilty; and sentence was deferred for one day.

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—So little interest is manifested this year in this excellent society that the Secretary failed yesterday to collect sufficient members together to determine upon the season Exhibition. It is to be regretted that the agriculturists will not take the subject in hand if the citizens are too callous to move in the matter.

THE ELECTION COMMITTEE.—The committee on Mr. Pidwell's qualification sat yesterday and examined the various witnesses—Messrs. McDonald, Deane, Norris, Wright and Trimble. The examination closed about four o'clock. The public cannot learn the result until the report shall have been handed in to the House to-day; but it was generally rumored last evening that Mr. Pidwell retains his seat.

THE INQUEST.—The pressure on our space, caused by the arrival of the exciting news received from the Canadian borders, compels us to hold over the report of the adjourned inquest held yesterday on the body of the Saanich Indian found dead on the Cedar Hill Road. Several witnesses were examined, and the inquest was further adjourned until Monday.

ISLAND POTATOES.—A person on board the steamer California, recently took down a quantity of last year's Island potatoes to San Francisco, where he disposed of them to Restaurant keepers, on condition that they should be preferred to the new potatoes raised in California. The eculets were tried, and so highly approved of, that the customers would not touch any others.

ACCIDENT.—A serious accident occurred on Tuesday last to a miner named Joseph Cannel. It appears he was working in the Wide West Co.'s claim, a short distance above Richfield, and was in the act of being hoisted from the shaft, and while throwing down a pick he had brought up in his hand, his feet slipped out of the rope and he was precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, fracturing his leg very badly, but without sustaining any further injuries. He was carried down to Mr. Michael's house, Barkerville, where he was attended by Dr. Chipp, who soon set the broken limb. There seems to be some strange fatality about breaking of legs in this part of the country, this being the third instance we have had to record within the last two weeks.—Sentinel.

FROM THE NORTH WEST COAST OF V. I.—The schooner Alert, Captain Francis, arrived on Wednesday evening from the N. W. of V. I., having been absent about 3 months, trading with the natives. A bark was anchored at Sooke; and the schooner Meg Merrilles was seen near the same place. The Alert will sail for the West coast to-day.

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY held no sitting yesterday, but will meet to-day, at 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 9.

STILL ANOTHER LUSUS.—A chicken having four wings and four legs and feet was hatched the other day in the poultry yard of a family residing on Humboldt street. The feet pointed in opposite directions, and acted like the legs of a stool, so as to prevent the poor little bird from walking either backwards or forwards. In this progressive age, nothing can thrive that cannot go ahead; and the chicken after an uneventful and monotonous existence of a couple of days, finding that it was being left behind in the race of life, yielded up the ghost. It has been preserved.

THE STEAMER CALIFORNIA.—The telegraph last evening announced the arrival of this steamer at San Francisco yesterday morning at 9:30, having made the run in three days and two hours.

FROM THE SOUTH.—We understand that H. M. S. Sutlej is expected from the South Pacific next week, unless she may have proceeded to Honolulu. Admiral Denman it is said has proceeded home.

ARRIVED AT PORTLAND.—The steamer Fideliter reached Portland yesterday at 6 p.m.

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY had no quorum yesterday.

Monday, June 11.

THE FENIANS.—The wires have been silent for the last two days, owing to an interruption in the line this side of Portland, and consequently nothing more has reached us since Friday night from the Canadian borders. The public are greatly excited over the recent news and are anxiously looking forward to the receipt of further intelligence from the East. In the meantime our own position and the probabilities of a raid on these shores is engaging public attention, resulting as might be expected in the circulation of all kinds of unauthenticated rumors. The authorities deeming prevention better than cure are wisely on the qui vive. H. M. S. Alert left Esquimalt on Saturday afternoon and anchored off the mouth of this harbor, where she has her guns run out, and keeps a launch afloat armed with a howitzer ready to board and inspect every craft entering the harbor. The steamer Emily Harris and other crafts were overhauled during the night. The gunboat Forward also left Esquimalt shortly after the Alert, with orders to cruise off Cadboro Bay, and the Sparrowhawk we understood was to lay off Race Rocks. The Scout remained in the harbor, and was shortly afterwards joined by the flagship Sutlej, from the Southern Coast. The banks, we learn, on Saturday removed all their treasure from the vaults and placed it for safe keeping on board one of the ships of war, so that in case of the Fenians on this coast being mad enough to fit out an expedition to visit us they will not only be deprived of their chief object of plunder, but they will find it a hard matter, even if they should succeed in effecting a landing to make their escape in the face of a fleet mounting over 100 heavy guns, and manned by over 1,200 men. Our city, too, is not so sparsely populated, but what Victoria would be able to show a bold and formidable front to any invading force that the despotic organization of demoted fanatics could place upon terra firma. Further telegraphic intelligence will be anxiously looked for to-day, and should it come particulars will be immediately placed upon our bulletin board.

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.—H.M.S. Sutlej, 51 guns, bearing the flag of Admiral the Hon. Joseph Denman, arrived in Esquimalt on Saturday evening, 54 days from Coquimbo. Admiral Denman, who has been an invalid during the passage, will retain the command of the fleet until his promotion and the recall of the ship, both of which are shortly expected, her time of service having expired. Sir Lambton Lorraine, formerly the Admiral's Flag Lieutenant, has been promoted to Acting Master of H.M.S. Mutine. Lieut. Salmon is now Flag Lieutenant. The Sutlej did not call at Callao on her passage up.—She experienced light weather, and was compelled to steam part of the way. Mrs. Denman accompanies the Admiral.

VOLUNTEER PARADE.—The Volunteer Corps will parade this evening at James Bay at half past seven o'clock in undress. In these exciting times it behoves every man to be at his post when called upon, and we hope to see a full muster.

HAULED DOWN THEIR COLORS.—A party of Australians were enjoying a water excursion yesterday on a coasting schooner, and hoisted a flag with a kangaroo on it, the local flag of the Colony of Victoria. The craft was watched from H.M.S. Alert, and the gallant tars not being able to satisfy themselves that the animal on the flag was not the portrait of a Fenian, made signals to the schooner, which were immediately understood—as the kangaroo soon came tumbling down, and the British ensign ran up.

BOAT STEALING.—Some men are in custody on a charge of stealing boats, two of which have been recovered by the police. This practice is become common and should be summarily checked.

NAVAL.—We understand that the iron cased frigate Zalous, 21 guns, is expected to be stationed in the Pacific.

COMMERCIAL.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Capt. Clarke, arrived last evening from Nanaimo with a few passengers. A large number of Indians were met on the way to Nanaimo where a polach is to take place. The ship Helois will be loaded by Tuesday next. A ship was seen near Race Rocks bound out.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

SATURDAY, June 9.

Jobbing rates as follows: FLOUR—Extra, \$8.50 @ \$9.00 per bbl; Superfine, \$8; Common, \$5.50 @ 6 do. RYE FLOUR—\$6 do. OATMEAL—\$18 @ 19 do. CORNMEAL—\$15 @ 16 do. BUTTER—\$20 @ 22 per cwt. CANDLES—\$5 @ 6 per bx SOAP—\$2 @ 2.50 do. TEA—\$7 @ 12 per lb. CHEST COFFEE—25 @ 28 per lb. BUTTER—Fresh, 40c @ 50c per lb. Bacon and Hams—\$25 @ 28 per 100 lbs. WHEAT—2 1/2 @ 2 3/4 do. OATS—1 1/2 @ 2 do. BARLEY—1 1/2 @ 2 do. GROUND BARKLEY—2 1/2 do. MIDDINGS—2 1/2 @ 2 1/2 do. BRAN—1 1/2 @ 2 do. POTATOES—1 1/2 @ 1 do. HAY—1 1/2 @ 1 1/2 per bale.

COAL EXPORTS.

Statement of Vessels departed from Nanaimo, V.I., during the month of May, 1866.

Table with columns: Date, Name of Vessel, Master, Tons, Out, Destination. Lists various ships like Bk Diamond, Stmr Sir Jas Douglas, etc.

VALUE OF EXPORTS.

From Victoria V. I., to American Ports For the Month ending May 31st, 1866.

Table with columns: TO SAN FRANCISCO, TO PORT ANGELOS, TO ASTORIA. Lists various goods like Carpeting, Liqueurs, Iron, etc.

IMPORTS.

Table with columns: Per schr MATILDA, Per stmr ELIZA ANDERSON, Per schr GAZELLE, etc.

PASSENGERS.

Table with columns: Per stmr ELIZA ANDERSON, Miss Katie Knox, Miss Terra Bignell, etc.

PORT ANGELOS SHIPPING.

ENTERED. May 30—Brg Sheet Anchor, Pike, master, from San Francisco via Victoria; loads at Port Ludlow; cleared at the same time for San Francisco with 230,000 feet lumber. June 1—Am Brg Admiral, CG Newberry, master, from San Francisco, 12 days' passage.

Am brk Constitution, Clements, master, from Tahiti via Sandwich Islands. Left Tahiti March 20th, 1866, and Honolulu May 6th.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED. June 2d—Bark Metropolis, Howard, Port Angeles. June 4th—Schr Surprise, Francis, Northwest Coast of Vancouver Island. Schr Shark, Turner, Sooke.

June 5th—Stmr Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles. Schr Matilda, Greenwood, Port Angeles. June 6th—Stmr Enterprise, Swanson, New Westminster.

Schr Gen Harney, Reader, New Westminster. June 7th—Schr Gazelle, Golacer, San Juan. Schr Alert, Francis, N W of V I.

June 8th—Sloop Ocean Queen, Watkins, San Juan. June 9th—Sloop W B Naylor, Dake, Blakely Island. Stmr Enterprise, Swanson, New Westminster.

CLEARED.

June 2d—Bark Metropolis, Howard, Honolulu. June 4th—Stmr Emily Harris, Frain, Nanaimo. Schr Gaselle, Golacer, San Juan.

Schr Meg Merrilles, Pamphlet, Alberni. Stmr Enterprise, Swanson, New Westminster. Slip Ocean Queen, Watkins, San Juan.

Stmr California, Williams, San Francisco. Stmr Fideliter, Erskine, Astoria. June 5th—Sloop Lady Franklin, Thornton, San Juan.

Stmr Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles. June 6th—Sloop W B Naylor, Dake, Blakely Sound. Schr Gen Harney, Reader, Port Angeles.

June 7th—Schr Surprise, Spring, N W Coast of V I. Schr Alert, Francis, N W Coast of V I. Stmr Enterprise, Swanson, New Westminster.

June 8th—Schr Shark, Stow, Sooke. Schr C G Clancy, Robinson, Port Angeles. June 9th—Sloop W B Naylor, Dake, Blakely Island.

BIRTHS.

In this city, on the 8th instant, Mrs. Richard Cameron of a daughter. British Columbia papers please copy.

Sporborg & Rueff, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, Importers and Wholesale Dealers.

Groceries, Provisions, Boots and Shoes.

PICKLES, SAUCES, JAMS, &c. (FREE FROM ADULTERATION.)

GROSSE & BLACKWELL, PURVEYORS TO THE QUEEN, SOHO SQUARE, LONDON.

Renowned first-class Manufactures are obtainable from every respectable Provision Dealer in the World.

HER MAJESTY'S TABLE. C. & B. are AGENTS for LEA & PERRIN'S Celebrated WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE, and are Manufacturers of every description of Olmen's Sauce of the highest quality.

SAUCE—LEA AND PERRIN'S Worcestershire Sauce.

PROBONOURED BY EXTRACTION OF LEMMON FROM A MEDICAL OFFICER at Madras, To his Brother at Worcester, May, 1856.

Only Good Sauce, and applicable to every variety of DISH. Begeto caution the public against spurious imitations of their celebrated WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

Caution. Lea & Perrin's WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

L. & P. having discovered that several of the Foreign Markets have been supplied with spurious imitations, the labels closely resemble those of the genuine Sauce, and in one or more instances the names of L. & P. are used.

L. & P. will proceed against any one who may manufacture or vend such imitations and have entrusted their correspondents in the various parts of the world to advise them of any irregularities or their rights.

Ask for Lea and Perrin's Sauce. Sole Wholesale and for Export by the Proprietors, Worcester; Messrs. Grosse and Blackwell, Messrs. Barclay and Sons, London; etc., etc., and by Grocers and Olmen universally.

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DAY & MARTIN'S REAL JAPAN BLACKING!

For affording nourishment and durability to the Leather it stands Unrivalled. Sold by all First Class Houses in British Columbia and the Colonies.

In Bottles and Tins of 6d., 1s., and 1s. 6d. each. CAUTION.—D. & M. take the opportunity of cautioning purchasers against SPURIOUS IMITATIONS of their MANUFACTURED and LABELED SAUCES.

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Who wish a good collection of Music, will find it in "Winn's" Excellent Collection." Price 75 cents. Both of the above are published by OLIVER DITSON & CO., 277 Washington street, Boston. For sale at Hibben & Carwell's and Wall & Co's Bookstores.

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THE IRISH QUESTION. The most puzzling question of the day is the Irish question. After English rule, it would appear a portion of the Irish people, land but in other parts of the British connection. It is a puzzle to the sagacity of successive Governments that this is so. The Irish an insane organization, but Fenianism is a standing rebuke to wisdom. We may starve with an easy grace, but all the world will not get over there must be some serious keeps a country in perpetual and nearly always on the brink of ruin. Now that the dangers of the Canadian border question, hoped that Earl Grey and John Stuart Mill will not in British Parliament in vain for Irish measures. It is a better hand than the liberal men who now form the British press of the United Kingdom remedies, English members of and Scotch members of Parliament, to be equally anxious with the general discontent; all it carrying out of some such suggestion proposed by Mr. Bright should have a short session devoted to Irish affairs. The pressing one. "We should in North British Review," longed selves to the state of Ireland. of Russian diplomatists may into dogged denial; the persistent members may weary us into with the whole subject; the nature of the people must distrust warmest friends; but if these extensions can be for a moment any Englishman conscientious Ireland is other than a source of shame? The traces left by misery are not removed in a day every allowance for this the state is still a deep reproach. Dig ourselves as we will, the fact is will at last become clear even English mind, that nearly all the aristocracy and the shopkeepers by forms of discontent of which takes us altogether. Church questions and land important everywhere, are of vital in Ireland. Something, indeed, plished by the Encumbered Estates the tenure of land in Ireland requiring handling; the gigantic abuse Establishment must be abated, shoot the Irish or transport the way and all ways improving the face of the earth like Red Indians Cromwell's method; and whatever think of its morality, was an inconsistent policy. Or we may them by governing them with their principles and opinions. They we cannot do with any result misery to them and discredit to the thing we insist on doing; govern Ireland with an utter disregard feelings and wishes of the bulk of people. It is all very well to talk justice and equality of laws forget that what is justice here may be injustice there, and that equality may by the Irish be regarded as a sounding name for forcing English the Irish nation. At all events we