

The Grouse Creek Difficulty.

Mr Needham's position on William Creek is a delicate and trying one; but we believe that he is fully capable of meeting and overcoming any difficulties that may beset the path of his duty. In face of the decision of Mr Judge Begbie—that there was no appeal from the decision of the Gold Commissioner—the Chief Justice decides that there is an appeal; that the Grouse Creek cases should have been heard on their merits; that the objections to an appeal were merely technical; that he has the power to try and will try the cases on their merits; and that in order to do so he will "alter the rules of the court and allow any notice that will be compatible with justice to be given by either party." The remarks of the Chief Justice appear to have been well received by the people on the creek, and his dignified demeanor and impartiality will, we doubt not, exert considerable influence in restoring to our most cherished institution that prestige which the recent wild goose chase of the Governor exerted so powerful an effect in weakening. After consultation between counsel, it was decided that the cases should come before the court in the form of writs of ejectment. The hearing was fixed for Monday last, and the decision is awaited with breathless anxiety by residents in this part of the Colony. Than this case none ever tried here has occupied so large a share of public attention or evoked so deep a feeling of interest; and we rejoice that there is now a fair prospect of having it finally set at rest, but at the same time we deprecate and detest the means that were adopted to effect it, when a man straightforward and dignified policy would have attained the same object without the sacrifice of a principle or the wounding of the feelings of a single subordinate officer of the Government. We believe that Chief Justice Needham will perform his duty, as he has ever done, fearlessly and conscientiously; and the parties to the suit may rest assured that the cases will be decided "upon their own merits" in accordance with the facts brought out in evidence. Whatever may be the decision we are prepared to accept it as correct, and so far as we are concerned shall allow the scandalous case to sink into that oblivion from which, but for the ill-advised proceeding of Mr Seymour, it would scarcely have emerged.

Saturday, Sept 28th.

THE THREATS TO ASSAULT AT BELMONT.—George Hawkins and Arthur Peat were arraigned before Mr Pemberton yesterday upon a charge of threatening to assault ex-Chief Justice Cameron. Mr Bishop appeared for the defence. From the information of Mr Cameron, it would appear that the two men came to Belmont to inquire relative to some pigs belonging to them which had been maimed. Hawkins held a gun in his hand and told the ex-chief that if he knew any of the parties who had injured his pigs he had a remedy in his own hands and would not fail to use it. Hawkins then called complainant a mean, low scamp, and was very violent, and was finally ordered to leave. Mr Bishop said his clients had been out, gunning and merely called to inquire relative to the maimed stock. They used no threats and meant no harm to Mr Cameron. If that gentleman would say he was afraid of bodily harm from the defendants they would submit to be bound over to keep the peace; but if the case was pressed, the defence would prove that Mr Cameron had killed stock and had acknowledged it. The complainant then made a statement in which he stated that his only object was to put a stop to the trespasses of stock belonging to the defendants. Their stock was turned loose as though the defendants expected them to fatten on other people's crops. The whole district was complaining of depredations from the hogs belonging to the accused. Their object was to frighten him—he had no doubt of that. Peat said nothing, but his silence showed that he assented to all Hawkins said. Mr Bishop alluded to the previous good character of the defendants. Mr Cameron said he had brought this case forward on public grounds alone, and would be satisfied if they retracted their offensive epithets and entered into their own recognizances to keep the peace towards all Her Majesty's subjects. The magistrate made a few pertinent remarks and ordered each of the defendants to enter into his own recognizances in the sum of \$500 to keep the peace for one year—in default, two months' imprisonment. Mr Bishop gave notice of appeal.

The institution of life assurance is at length about to receive in France its official consecration. By the terms of a bill laid before the Legislative Body some days before it broke up, there is to be instituted, under the guarantee of the State, a Caisse d'Assurances, to pay on the death of each assured, to his heirs or assigns, a determinate sum which cannot exceed 3,000f. To this creation is annexed a similar one for accidents resulting from agricultural or manufacturing labors.

The steamship Oregon, from Nanaimo, with about 800 tons of coal aboard, arrived at Esquimalt last night, and sailed for San Francisco at 4 o'clock this morning.

A DECIDED PREFERENCE.—The other day the telegraph bark Palmetto wanted to sail from Esquimalt for New York; but she was short-handed and couldn't. The captain scoured the town, but failed to find the men necessary to complete the complement. At length he had recourse to the chain-gang. He was introduced to several of the most distinguished long-time men, but only one of the lot appeared physically capable of performing the duties of a sailor. He is a great scamp and is sentenced to three years' imprisonment with hard labor. To him the captain addressed himself. The inducements were a free pardon, good wages, an advance, and liberty on arriving at the vessel's destination. The convict, jumping at the offer, consented to go, and was preparing to doff his prison garb for one more becoming the duties he had agreed to assume, when he paused and scratched his head. "By the way, captain," said he, returning, "I forgot to ask where the vessel goes to?" "To New York," replied the captain, innocently. "To New York!" retorted the other; "then I'd rather stay here. This chain-gang is bad enough; but 'tain't a circumstance to New York." No persuasion could induce the convict to change his mind, and the captain departed without his man.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—A LITTLE GIRL DROWNED IN WELL.—An accident occurred yesterday afternoon on Quadra street. A little girl of James Ure, aged 21 months was given a piece of bread and jam by its mother and went into the yard to play. A few minutes afterwards she was missed, and upon search being made by the mother, a loose board that usually covered the well was found to have fallen into it, and the body of the child was seen floating in the water. Willis Bond, a neighbor, succeeded in raising the body in a short time, and the usual restoratives were applied; but the vital spark had fled. The little thing is supposed to have sat down on the board, which gave way beneath the weight and precipitated her into the water. Parents and others having children in charge cannot be too careful in securing the mouths of wells.

PUNISHING INSURANCE FRAUDS.—The London News says: The frauds on insurance by scuttling ships are not confined to England. We have before us the full report of the trial at Singapore of the owner, master and mate of the Erin for sinking the vessel on a voyage from Hongkong to Bangkok. The vessel had been very heavily insured in the local offices and carried but a small cargo, and the evidence showed that she could not have stowed the goods named in the manifest. After five days' trial the jury convicted all three prisoners. The captain (Stewart) and owner (Scott) were sentenced to penal servitude for life, and the chief officer to five years' imprisonment. The severity of the sentence created a deep sensation.

THE WEEVIL.—Our attention has been called to the presence of the weevil among a quantity of wheat recently imported to this city from California, and which has been extensively sold on the Island. Every precaution should be taken to guard against the introduction of this troublesome insect, which has been known to destroy the entire wheat crop in other countries and to force the farmers to adopt the starving out process by not sowing wheat for several successive years before it could be finally got rid of. Examine all foreign wheat closely before purchasing.

JEWISH NEW YEAR.—The Jewish New Year commences on Sunday evening at 6 o'clock and will last until Tuesday evening at the same hour. Business during the 48 hours will be suspended by our Jewish fellow-citizens.

There is a report afloat that Mr Begbie has resigned, or that he is about to do so. At any rate, after what has transpired at the mines with reference to the Grouse Creek case, he can never again sit upon the Supreme Court bench in that section.

PERFORMANCE AT THE THEATRE.—Mr March announces a performance at the theatre on Wednesday evening next, under the patronage of Admiral Hastings and Officers of H. M. Fleet. The entertainment will be varied and attractive.

THE ERUPTION.—The burning mountain across the Straits continues to emit dense volumes of smoke and flame, which are viewed nightly from the commanding heights in this vicinity. The scene of the eruption is located some sixty-five miles distant from Victoria in a southerly direction, and about in a line with the head of Hood's Canal.

A MAIL COMING.—The Panama steamer arrived at San Francisco on the 22d inst., and as the John L. Stephens sailed for this port on the 26th, it is reasonable to suppose that she has our mail aboard.

SAILED.—The bark Palmetto, laden with telegraph wire, sailed for New York yesterday morning. The ship Anna Dorobea, laden with Burrard Inlet lumber, sailed for Australia about the same time.

THE J. L. STEPHENS.—This steamship will not enter Esquimalt harbor. She will merely call off the harbor for passengers only, and will coal at Nanaimo.

H. M. S. ALERT will sail on the 10th prox. for the South.

The Fidelity, from Portland, arrived at 10: last night.

Roads in Victoria District.

EDITOR COLONIST.—Can you inform me who is attending to the roads in Victoria District? There is a bridge near the Solicitor General's residence, which is in such a state that no vehicle can pass over it. The road taxes are collected most religiously; but no repairs have been made since the death of the late Superintendent of Roads, Mr Pidwell.

A PAYEE OF ROAD TAX IN VICTORIA DISTRICT.
26th Sept. 1867.

Letter from Lillooet.

LILLOOET, B. C.,
September 19th, 1867.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Permit me to give you a few 'items' concerning the beautiful and productive Lillooet valley. They may be of little interest to many of your readers—but we are so little known about, and by our Government so little cared for, that we feel justly proud of our perseverance and industry under existing circumstances, and desire to let the people of British Columbia, as well as the "Canadian gentlemen," know what we have been doing and what we intend to do. But I trust that the glowing prospect may not excite the "gentlemen's" jumping proclivities, or lead them to expect as easy a conquest in our district. We have a magistrate—the Hon. E. H. Sanders, Esq.—who has the entire respect and willing support of all the residents, and in case of a like occurrence here, we would soon jayhawk all such sparrow-hawks—according to law—you bet! We have been jogging along slowly but surely, without making much fuss or receiving many favors from the Governor and council—making permanent improvements in farms and facilities for growing stock. Our calls on the Treasury have been very limited. Less than seven hundred dollars were expended on our road to Clinton this season—a very insignificant sum, considering the revenue collected in the district. We have had no local government improvements, so long allowed and expected, notwithstanding that our magistrate's dwelling is so badly situated, so contracted and unsuited. Our jail is unfit for a savage to occupy, open to every wind that blows. Thank heaven! we have no desperadoes;—confinement in the Lillooet jail would be a farce, unless evildoers consented.

The season has been backward and cold; but our crops have all matured and most of them are harvested. The big threshing machine is at work and our flour mills are making an article of flour which we guarantee to be equalled only occasionally and never excelled.

Mining by a few white men and numbers of Chinese and Indians is being carried on above and below us on Fraser as well as on Bridge river. Farmers are extending their bounds and we are a fixture here. Whether Uncle Sam spreads his wings over us or not, we would accept any rule save misrule, hoping a change to be beneficial.

This effusion may reach you in two weeks. Our mails depart and are received via Clinton. If it is too stale when you get it (you newspaper men must think everything old,) please send it to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, for his individual edification. It will let him know that we have this year grown 1,500,000 lbs of wheat, of an excellent quality; 800,000 lbs of oats and barley; 60,000 lbs of beans; and vegetables innumerable. We shall cure over 30 tons of bacon and make *higou* whiskey when Messrs. Sprout & Royer get up their whiskey-making fixings. In season we revel in lots of melons, tomatoes, apples, corn, currants, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, etc, such as cannot be grown in British Columbia outside of our Lillooet valley. We will produce next year at least 50 per cent more of everything, and keep increasing year after year.

This is a good country and only needs a little retrenchment and a little reconstruction to make it a great one.

APPAP.

EXCITING SCENE AT A MENAGERIE.—A group of eight rattlesnakes, says an English paper, which had been landed at Liverpool, were purchased by Wm. Manders, and were first exhibited by that gentleman at Northampton. As the box in which the snakes had been brought over was to a certain extent unsafe, Mr Manders had a stout case expressly manufactured for their reception. The keeper who attends the reptile department of the menagerie, put a large pan on the coke fire which stood in the centre of the menagerie. During the time the pan was heating he proceeded with his work, and at length he took the case containing the rattlesnakes out of the box, and commenced cleaning the exterior. While he was so engaged the spring latch of the door at the side of the case became detached and the door dropped down. At this moment the water in the pan boiled over, and the keeper rushed to the fire to remove the pan, incautiously leaving open the door of the rattlesnake case. On his return to resume work he saw that one of the largest of the snakes had escaped from the case and was peering about, hissing in a terrible manner and shaking its rattle. The man closed the open door of the case and warned his companion. A panic seized the man, and with the greatest difficulty an elderly man named Frank Godfrey prevailed on some of them to remain in the enclosure and endeavor to recapture the fearful reptile. Arming themselves with shovels, forks, scrapers and brooms, the keepers, under the direction of Godfrey, proceeded towards the snake. The reptile during these preparations remained perfectly quiet, but on the approach of the keepers leisurely proceeded up the centre of the enclosure, hissing fearfully all the

time. It did not appear to notice any of the occupants of the numerous dens and cages until it came to the caravan containing the bonassus, a species of buffalo—an immense animal, weighing upwards of two tons. On arriving opposite this caravan the rattlesnake paused for a moment and then made a spring, fastened on the bonassus, and bit it in the left nostril. The reptile then let go its grip, and shaking its rattles, glided through an opening between two of the caravans, where some of Mr Manders' grooms were filling a cart with straw. To this cart was attached one of the finest studs belonging to the establishment. The rattlesnake fastened on the off fetlock of the horse, which immediately reared and plunged to such an extent as to shake the reptile off, and before it could move away it was crushed to pieces beneath the hoofs of the horse, which died in frightful agony. Meanwhile the bonassus was in such an infuriated condition that the doors of his den had to be put up and securely bolted, and shortly afterwards it died.

India.

The overland mail brings newspaper dates from Bombay to June 21, and Calcutta to June 19.

The state of the public health in Bombay continued very satisfactory. So little rain had fallen up to June 21, as to render it doubtful if the monsoon had really burst. Since then the fall had been heavy, and the temperature was in consequence greatly reduced.

The Bombay government is said to have received intelligence of the death of one, if not two, of the British captives in Abyssinia. A meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Bengal was held on the 17th of June, at which a resolution was unanimously adopted in favor of amalgamation with the Bank of Bombay. It is understood, however, that government will not sanction amalgamation until satisfied that the reconstruction of the bank of Bombay is impossible. The banks of Bombay and Bengal had both reduced their rates of discount one per cent during the fortnight. At Bombay the rates are seven per cent on government paper and nine per cent on mercantile bills. The Bengal rates one per cent lower.

The application for shares in the Commercial Bank have been so very limited in Bombay as to render the resuscitation of the shares are taken up at home.

The second expedition to the Andaman Islands to ascertain the fate of the captain and seven of the crew of the ship Assam Valley had discovered that the unfortunate men were murdered.

The son of the King of Borneo has been executed on an apparently unfounded charge of conspiracy against the King. The Rajah of Chumla has issued a proclamation giving toleration to Christianity in his dominions, and forbidding any persecution or annoyance to any of his subjects who may become Christians.

A vein of silver has been discovered in the Sir Rheone hills, in the native State of Rewa. The Maharajah has given orders for the commencement of mining works.

The latest accounts received at Calcutta relative to the famine in Orissa were less satisfactory. An appeal had been published asking for £30,000 to support fifteen hundred children who have been left orphans by the famine. A native gentleman had offered £1,000 to the famine fund, provided that nine others subscribe each a similar amount.

The circumstances attending the death of Madame Musurus, the lady of the Turkish Ambassador, were singular and impressive. Amidst the royal and noble personages of the India house ball the Ambassador of Turkey and his wife occupied the post of honor of the corps diplomatique. Their family were near them. When dancing began one of the Ambassador's daughters was a partner of the Prince of Wales. The scene was brilliant, and happiness shone in every face. Presently the Sultan and the royal personages, with the most distinguished guests, retired to supper; but on the threshold of the room Madame Musurus was taken ill and could proceed no further. She was at once removed to another apartment and became immediately insensible. The ambassador was, with the approval of her husband, as quickly as possible carried downstairs and taken home—messengers being despatched for doctors to meet her, and for a hot bath to be prepared. She was removed almost unnoticed, and few of the guests were aware of the serious nature of her seizure. Lady Molesworth took home the young ladies, and remained some time at the Embassy. But nothing could counteract the sudden but fatal blow, and death supervened before science could avail itself of its resources. The Queen immediately telegraphed to the Embassy to express her sympathy and condolence. Dr E. Lankester, coroner for central Middlesex, received information of the death of Madame Musurus, accompanied by a certificate signed by Dr J. C. Forbes, her medical attendant, who ascribed death of disease of the heart, accelerated by excitement. The coroner thereupon deemed an inquest unnecessary.

Amos Lawrence, of Boston, kept a record, during a long life, of all his mercantile acquaintances, and found out that of every hundred who entered business, 97 failed of success.

PUBLIC SPIRITED.—Young ladies who allow their father's house to be used for a court-house.

The Health of the Queen.

(From the London Lancet.)

When, a fortnight since, we stated that we had good grounds for making public the reasons which prevented Her Majesty from appearing at evening crowded assemblies, the statement was neither exaggerated nor incorrect. There have, however, been some exceptions to this rule. These would be scarcely worthy of notice had not the writers assumed that they were more or less authorized to impugn the accuracy of the paragraph which appeared in the *Lancet*. Upon a subject of so much delicacy we spoke with what we believe to have been a becoming and justifiable reserve. Our report was in no respect sensational or over stated. It was a plain statement of facts, which, in justice to Her Majesty and to the source from which we obtained it, we felt bound to make public. The appearance of the Queen in public on a recent occasion was followed by a most distressing attack of sickness and exhaustion, which lasted for several hours. The inner life of the court is necessarily known to but few; even those in immediate attendance upon the Queen are not always in a condition to arrive at a correct knowledge of Her Majesty's real condition. The privacy of the sovereign should be as much respected that of the humblest of her subjects. There are occasions, however, on which the privacy may be held too sacred. This is more especially the case when erroneous reports have gained general credence. Then it is right to be known that Her Majesty, with the greatest desire to fulfil all those duties which appertain to her dignity or her hospitality, is occasionally prevented from performing them by bodily suffering of a character most difficult to be borne.

A CURIOUS CALCULATION.—An exchange says: What a noisy creature would a man be were his voice, in proportion to his weight, as loud as that of a locust! A locust can be heard at the distance of one sixteenth of a mile. The golden wren is said to weigh but half an ounce, so that a middling sized man would weigh down not short of four thousand of them; and it must be strange if a golden wren would not outweigh four of our locusts. Supposing, therefore, that a common man weighs as much as sixteen thousand of our locusts, and that a note of an locust can be heard one sixteenth of a mile, a man of common dimensions, pretty sound in wind and limb, ought to be able to make himself heard at a distance of one thousand six hundred miles; and when he sneezed, "his house ought to fall about his ears!" Supposing a flea to weigh one grain, which is more than its actual weight, and to jump one and a half yards, a common man of one hundred and fifty pounds, with jumping powers in proportion, could jump twelve thousand eight hundred miles, or about the distance from New York to Cochinchina.

BEECHER AND SPURGEON.—A writer in the New York *Gazette*, contrasting Spurgeon and Beecher, says: No man in the world understands his physical system better than Mr Beecher. His eating, sleeping, exercise, all conform to the laws of health. He is thoroughly temperate in all respects. He has reached a half century with a sound constitution in a healthy body, and has twenty-five years good service in him yet. Spurgeon is a young man. His fleshy appearance and the gout that has already overtaken him show that physical laws must be obeyed as well as moral. Mr Beecher lives plainly, is simple in his dress and his habits, and if met in the street would sooner be taken for an expressman in a hurry for the cars than a minister. Spurgeon dresses in pure English clerical style, is a free liver, dispenses an elegant hospitality, keeps his coach and coachman, lives in a fine mansion, and boasts of as good a turn-out as the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dominion of Canada.

ONTARIO.

On Tuesday morning last, while a number of men were returning from a "bee," in the township of Carden, three of the party were struck by lightning, and instantly killed. The names of the unfortunate men were Hagen, Flynn, and Durham, and were, we are informed, residents of the township of Mara, county of Ontario.—*Orillia Express*.

A gentleman just returned from a business tour through the Upper Province west of Hamilton, says the country looks beautiful, and the crops heavy and good. Some fields of wheat had put on their golden color, and appeared almost ready for reaping. He did not bear a single complaint from farmers.

REIN OF JAMAICA.—The condition of Jamaica is the theme of a private letter printed in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which gives a sad picture of the continuous decline of that once flourishing and wealthy island. The writer, who is an old resident, says he "never knew Jamaica in such a state of despondency. None of the better classes—no educated person—would remain if they could manage to get away. The country is deeply in debt; no effort is made to develop her resources, and taxation is largely increased. Regret is expressed that the colonists no longer possess "anything like self-government." One of the parishes, that of St Ann's, which in 1840 contained thirty sugar estates, now has thirteen, and of these several are on the point of abandonment. Of fifty-three coffee estates, there are only four remaining. There is no market for horses, mules and cattle. The principal crop, pimento, promises to perish ungathered.

Garibaldi has again at effect what he terms "the Papal States; but from his Government it would his efforts are not approved was seized, and an appeal has been set in motion for with instructions to put Garibaldians who have arms at their chief's disposal adds that an arm France for Rome to preserve the integrity of the Pope. A French soldier sailed from home and the State was own resources for protection of presence of foreign troops was distasteful to Victor when his authority was the petty Sardinian States eign of which he may be existed upon the sufferance In the dark days of Italy became her ally. He assisted in their war again in 1859 and 1860, and in Savoy and Nice, which were France as a reward for its secured them in the important Provinces. So the invasion of Naples by was connived at by the and the French Emperor Italians joining in the drove King Bomba from and added Naples to the Italy. Three years ago G vaded Venetia. He was Italian troops, wounded prisoner, and his follower The time had not arrived. Italy finding that it had dearly for French support moment when Austria were quarrelling over the allied herself with the and joined in the attack upon The net results of this the crippling of Austria, tion of the North-German and the cessation of Italy. The only existing the complete reunion of Papal authority in the Rome how to seize the coveted put an end to the temporal the Pope without causing war? is a question that mu have agitated the mind of Cabinet for months. The is too heavily in debt to an engaging in another conf next few years at least; a most impolitic to allow precipitate a quarrel that disastrous to the Govern he professes to wish to movement is rash and ill- can only tend to increase cations and perhaps affect of Italy with France and o lie countries. It is no wa that the chieftain has been cast into prison; nor is it that we find a force of Itali sent out to disperse the volunteers who had collec frontier. But there is at still graver fact that taken into consideration this question. If it be the French army has embarked how far will the presence of on Italian soil meet the of the Italian Government? May it not give rise to a understanding or an open tween the former allies, at tate the general conflict Napoleon and Victor Eman cedingly anxious to avo present, without affecting, mostest degree, the positio Pope?

Friday, INSLAY TO A FLAG.—During occasion in San Francisco, an egg at the American flag from Russ House occupied by D. B. Griffin, late master and mate of ship Egmont, by a young woman Katy Mack. A San Francisco "If it appear that the insult was the Englishmen, they should be by the British Consul, otherw to be escorted down to the dock to get out of the city."

IN SERVICE AGAIN.—The D having received thorough re ready for active service, for wh there will be no necessity.

A Caledonian paper, in an young lady, who died lately, c "She had an amiable temper, commonly fond of ice-cream and caecias."

The steamship John L. Stephens sailed from San Francisco on Wednesday via Victoria, should arrive Sunday night or Monday morn

The Fidelity sailed from Wednesday and is due here to

Joseph Morrow, who has College and a New York Ro one of the most notorious Ita under the name of Guiseppo