

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle

Tuesday, March 24, 1868

Private advices from New Westminster state that a strong under-current of excitement prevails there in consequence of it having leaked out from a high official source that the views of the Governor with regard to the proper place for the location of the Seat of Government have not been sustained by the Colonial Office.

On motion of Councillor Lewis the Clerk was instructed to notify Messrs. Drake & Jackson that upon the proper information the Council will take legal action against any parties who may infringe upon the by-laws relating to streets and sidewalks.

Communication from J. P. Davies & Co. calling attention to the fact of their opening a cattle sale-yard, and requesting the Council to fix a scale of charges.

Communication from W. Hebbard, claiming five dollars for loss of time in attending Court. On motion laid upon the table.

On motion of Councillor Allart the contract for carting the dirt from the streets was awarded to Arthur Stroog, and the Street Committee were authorized to execute the contract for such time as may be required.

Municipal Council.

Wednesday, March 18. Council met at 7 p.m. His Worship the Mayor in the Chair. Present, Councillors Lewis, Allart, McKay, Crump, Jeffrey and Gibbs.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

Communication from Messrs. Drake & Jackson, requesting the City Council to notify Mr. Bunster, and a Chinaman keeping a wood yard at the corner of Douglas and Johnson streets, against driving their carts across the sidewalk, and that for any damage they may do to the sidewalk after said notice they be held responsible.

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Councillor Gibbs gave notice of motion for tenders for improvements on Beacon Hill Park.

Council adjourned until Tuesday the 21st.

VICTORIA RIFLE VOLUNTEER CORPS.—Eisen where in our columns appears an appeal from the officers of the Rifle Corps to the public. The Government, it appears, has granted liberal aid to the corps, and the officers now feel themselves in a position to invite to the roll of membership all who may have heretofore refrained from joining for fear of incurring pecuniary liabilities which they could not well discharge.

COUNCILLORS.—The following notice appears in the last number of the Government Gazette:—The Governor has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned gentlemen to be Provisional Members of the Legislative Council of British Columbia.

THE MID-AIR SUMMERSAULT is performed at the Alhambra, London, by Farini and son, as follows: Farini senior, suspended horizontally by the feet and arms, is really the floor upon which the boy stands.

FRASER RIVER.—The steamer Enterprise returned at 5 o'clock last evening from the river. Hon. H. M. Ball has been called to the Executive Council.

IN THE SUIT OF FELLOWS vs. THE BRITISH BANK Aid, in the U.S. Admiralty Court of Washington Territory, Judge Darwin rendered a decision in favor of plaintiff for \$5000; and in the suit of Grennan & Craney vs. the same vessel, damages for non-fulfillment of contract, judgment for \$1000 was given.

AMONG the passengers by the Anderson yesterday morning was an old townsman, Capt. George Walker, who we are sorry to learn is suffering severe illness in consequence of an injury done to his thumb some time since, which necessitated its amputation, the operation not proving as successful as desired.

THE STEAMER COLEFAX burst her boiler at Teekaleit, W. T., on Monday of last week. The Coffax was formerly the Caledonia, and was the first steamer built in Victoria harbor. She was blown up in 1859 in the Gulf of Georgia and lost five men.

THE RIVER STEAMERS are being repaired for the summer's campaign.

IN THE KOSKUL-SCHMEIDBURG case, at San Francisco, which has attracted so much attention lately, judgment was rendered in favor of the plaintiff, the Russian American Fur Company. The charges of perjury have been dismissed.

SOMETHING LIKE A GOVERNOR.—A Canadian paper says: Lord Monck presided at a missionary meeting in the Parish of St. Albans, near Ottawa, on Monday evening, and delivered a short address.

ARRIVAL.—The ship Rookwood, Captain Little, arrived from San Francisco yesterday morning. She comes consigned to Captain Stamp, at whose mills she will load for Sydney, Australia.

EXTRA MAIL.—An American and European mail will be despatched by the U.S. steamer Lincoln, which will leave this port on Friday evening next for San Francisco. Here is a chance to send letters.

AT TEKALEIT.—The ship Atalanta, for San Francisco; Cobang, for Callao; and the David Hoadley and Mary, for Shanghai—are all taking lumber on board at Teekaleit. Seattle Intelligence.

WORK SOURCE.—A dry goods house in New York advertised, lately, for an entry clerk, and at six o'clock on Tuesday night more than six hundred applications had been received.

Tax revenue cutter Lincoln has been ordered from Puget Sound to San Francisco, and the Wayanda is under orders to proceed to Alaska.

A notice posted in the Halifax Baska states that from the 20th Feb. until further notice the rate of interest charged on bills discounted will be seven per cent.

The mail steamer Henry Chaucey sailed from New York for Aspinwall, March 11, with 1100 passengers and 1091 tons of freight.

The ship Shooting Star, from Nansaimo with coal, reached San Francisco on the 12th inst.

Tax members of the Victoria Rifle Volunteer Corps, think it right to inform the public that owing to the liberal aid recently afforded by the Government, they are in a position to call upon the citizens of Victoria to assist them in increasing the efficiency of the Corps by joining its ranks.

The finances of the Corps are now in so satisfactory a condition that the only liability which new members will incur will be the expense of uniform, and the small monthly subscription of half a dollar, which will be devoted to the maintenance of the butts, targets, &c. The Band is also in an efficient state, and consists of about 14 instruments.

As it is the duty of every loyal citizen to aid the cause of law and order, the members of the Corps confidently appeal to the patriotism and energy of their fellow townsmen to further this object by placing the Corps on a more solid and satisfactory footing, and they make this appeal with the less hesitation inasmuch as they have for some years past devoted much of their own time and money for the public good.

The ordinary drills are: 1st Monday in the month, Commanding Officers' Parade; (compulsory). 3rd Monday in the month, Adjutant's drill, both at 8 p.m., at the Drill Hall, James Bay.

In view of the before mentioned object, an officer will be in attendance at the Drill Hall on Monday evening next, at 8 p.m., to enrol the names of recruits, and a similar enrolment will be made on the other drill nights. Intending recruits should join at once in order that they may participate in the class firing and target practice next summer.

By order, J. H. TURNER, Lieut. and Treasurer V.V.R. Corps, James Bay, Victoria, B.C., 17th March, 1868.

Our Coal Fields.

EDITOR COLONIST.—Your editorial remarks of yesterday, regarding the age of the coal fields of Vancouver Island, deserve some attention; and notwithstanding the opinions of Drs. Hector and Forbes, viz: that the coal formation here is of the Cretaceous era, I beg to state that paleontology bears me out in refuting that. I have found true fossils of the carboniferous series at Nahaimo, Harwood, Koskeemo and Comox, such as the calamites, the sphenopteris, neuropteris and other ferns, and at Comox a tree fossil heavily approaching in appearance to the sigillaris of the Scotch and English coalfields, clearly proving that our coalfields are older than those gentlemen have stated.

If our coals belonged to the Cretaceous period they could only be lignite, and would sell as low as Bellingham Bay or Mount Diablo, and it is well known that Nansaimo coal (the only one yet proved) is better in quality than any now working from Cape Horn to Sitka.

There are better coals on the Island equally accessible, capital only being wanted to develop them.

I am now in correspondence with the Geological Society of Edinburgh, and it is my intention to have this point decided, by the opinion of Mr. Page, the eminent geologist, now president of that Society.

It may be some years before our coal harvest comes, but come it will; and it is to be regretted that scientific men should venture to decide on a question such as this when they have only seen small portions of the Island, and that in the short time they could be absent from Naval duties. My opinion here stated is the result of six years experience on this coast, devoted entirely to the coal interest; and I therefore have little diffidence in stating it.

JOHN J. LANDALE, Mining Engineer, Corresponding Member Geological Society of Edinburgh.

The Duke of Edinburgh in Australia.

Correspondence Panama "Star and Herald."

Sydney, Jan'y 1st, 1868.

The Prince's visit continues to place all other matters in the shade. He is still among our Victoria neighbors, seeing and being seen, and will not leave Tasmania before Saturday next. His stay there will occupy two weeks, and he will arrive here at noon on the 21st inst. The Victorians are lavish in their expenditure to do honor to the son of our Queen, whose visits are so appreciated by all classes of our colonists that any special representative she might send here would meet a loyal reception. There is, however, no disguising the fact that the Prince has disappointed all who expected to find an old head on young shoulders. The royal skipper does not belong to any such class. He is a young man in every sense of the word, inclined to be a little fast, to see the most of the world, its bright side and its shady side, and in doing so some rumors says that his travelling companions are not disposed to be a whit behind the Duke.

In the beginning of the month His Excellency Sir J. Manners Sutton gave a grand ball in honor of the Prince, at which 3000 guests were present. A few days after the Prince started on his country tour, going first to Geelong, where he witnessed the regatta, received addresses, attended a public ball, &c. From thence the party passed to Barwon Park, where are some splendid preserves, containing great quantities of pheasants, hares, rabbits, and other animals to be found in an English sportsman's grounds. Here a grand batue a la Napoleon III was indulged in. The Prince, after visiting the Hon. N. Black's station, remained for a few days at Chatsworth House, in the western portion of the colony, and had fine sport kangarooing. On the 10th he arrived at Ballarat, the centre of the principal mining district. Here was a repetition of the addresses, balls and illuminations programme.

During his stay the Prince descended into the Works of the Sand Hope Company, the largest alluvial gold mine in the colony, witnessed the various operations, and on emerging from the shaft dripping wet was photographed in a miner's dress. On returning to Melbourne the Prince enjoyed a rest of three days, and then proceeded northward by rail. Reached Castlemaine on the 17th ult., and next morning went on to Sandhurst. Here the rejoicings were very little inferior to those at Melbourne, but were unfortunately marred by two serious accidents. The ball in which a grand ball was to be given caught fire just as the guests were assembling and in an hour was a heap of ashes. A still more catastrophe occurred through the criminal folly of some ruffian who threw some fire crackers on board a large model of the Galatea which was manned by boys belonging to the families of tradesmen of the town. The model ship was partially filled with fireworks which were being discharged at intervals along the line of procession, but when the fire crackers fell on board the whole affair burst into a blaze. A heavy explosion followed, and four boys who were unable to extricate themselves as their more fortunate companions had done were fearfully injured. Three of them died next day, and the fourth only survived a few days longer. From Sandhurst the Prince went by express train to Ballarat, a distance of 200 miles, in about four hours, and witnessed the races, but unfortunately the best sport was marred by the death of the crack horse of the meeting, who dropped dead after winning the largest prize. The circumstances were so suspicious that the services of an analytical chemist were obtained, the horse's stomach examined, and abundant proofs obtained that the horse had been poisoned by arsenic.

During the last few days the party have been enjoying themselves and last night His Royal Highness attended a ball given in aid of the funds of the Sailors Home. The Galatea leaves Melbourne on Saturday morning for Hobart Town.

QUEENSLAND. Sir George Bowen, the present Governor, left for New Zealand December 27th, to become Governor of that colony. Pending his successor's arrival, the President of the Upper House and the senior military officer will administer the government. The inquiry into the murder of the Clermont gold escort has resulted in the commitment of Gold Commissioner Griffin, the police magistrate who was in charge of the party at the time. Some of the stolen notes were traced, and a strong prima facie case has been established.

Several cargoes of South Sea Islanders have recently arrived to work on the cotton plantations. A disease resembling odium has recently appeared in the vineyards about Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA. The wheat crop is a total failure, owing to the late season. The general elections which were to take place in March.

Gold has been found near Gawler in sufficient quantities to render prospectors sanguine of success.

TASMANIA. An extraordinary phenomenon occurred at Hobartown about a fortnight since, in the shape of a snow storm in the middle of a tropical summer.

Great preparations are being made to receive Prince Alfred.

The whaling fleet, which now numbers about 20 vessels, has had a most successful season, and will probably be largely augmented, owing to the high price of oil and bone in the home markets.

New Zealand.

The gold fields in Auckland are progressing very favorably. The yields do not appear to be very large, but the field is extensive, and what is known as a "good poor man's" work. Lately gold has been found within twelve miles of the city of Wellington, among the hills by South Makara, but as yet beyond the fact that gold is there, we know little. Whether it is rich or poor, extensive or the reverse, we know not as yet. The country is being prospected, and by next mail I shall be able to give you full particulars.

Canada.

M. Crapeau's appointment to the Senate has been gazetted.

Mr. Johnson, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, has prepared a comparative statement between the Nova Scotia tariff of 1866 and the Dominion tariff, showing that the increase in revenue by the latter will be about \$59,000. In a report accompanying the statement Mr. Johnson shows that Nova Scotia would have had to provide \$200,000 additional for interest on its railway debt.

Collections were made in the Ottawa Churches for the Nova Scotia relief fund. The City Council has postponed the consideration of an appropriation towards the same object.

There is no foundation here for the rumor in Montreal of dissensions in the Cabinet.

The treasury board have decided that no tenders for Dominion stock will be accepted below par. The amount tendered for is not yet known.

The treasurer of the fishermen's relief fund has deposited \$1,000 to the credit of the Mayor of Halifax, who was authorized by telegram to check against it at the Halifax agency of the Montreal Bank.

Downie, convicted of manslaughter at Aylmer, has been sentenced to penitentiary for life.

The Legislature of Ontario has appropriated \$5,000 for the relief of the destitute fishermen of Nova Scotia, and meetings are to be held in several cities of the Upper Provinces to raise subscriptions for the same purpose.

All the Ministers, except Mr. Howland, who is still ill, were expected to be in Ottawa on the 23rd Feb. On getting to work the Government will probably appoint Governors, Railway Commissioners and Chief Engineer, deal with the route of the Intercolonial Railway, appoint an Umpire between Quebec and Ontario, Commissioners for the consolidation of the Laws and other matters of importance.

KINGSTON, Feb. 3.—Mr. George Carr, a carpenter residing in Williamsville, committed suicide in this city by cutting his throat early this morning.

A no-confidence motion was moved in the Ontario Legislature on the 14th Jan., and lost, the majority in favor of the Government being large. The motion had reference to the proposition of the Government to invest the surplus Provincial funds in Dominion stock. The Opposition were opposed to the consideration of the question at the time proposed by the Premier, nor until the estimates were brought down. The Government have already a good working majority, and with prudent management will not fail to retain it.

New Brunswick.

A fire at Fredericton destroyed the York Hotel and the residence of Mr. McPherson.

Dr. Dow, M.P.E. for York County, will be supported by the Government as Speaker of the House of Assembly.

The Finances of the Province are said to be in a flourishing condition. There is a surplus in the Treasury of \$200,000.

It is reported that the Hon. Judge Wilmut will be appointed Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.

The Rev. Canon Graig, Rector of Trinity Church, St. John, died at Halifax on Saturday.

The weather is extremely cold and stormy. Last night was the coldest of the season.

Nova Scotia.

The Halifax papers understand that a man belonging to that city had disposed of a large coal claim in Pictou County, to a Canadian Company, for \$70,000.

Despite the care and watchfulness of Rev. Ambrose, a young fisherman died from starvation at West Dover, Nova Scotia, a few days ago. It appears that the family kept their condition a secret, both from the Rev. gentleman and their neighbors.

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH

Eastern States.

CONCORD, N. H., March 13.—branch of the legislature stands in favor of 161 Democrats. Governor's majority is about 2,700.

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