

The Weekly British Colonist  
AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, September 12, 1868.

## Progress or Retrogression.

It is usual for those who are not in favor of progress, and who have some sort of vested interest in keeping things as they are, to throw in the teeth of those who seek to reform the institutions of the country to which they belong, that they have a constant desire for change; this accusation has been brought, and with some degree of force, against all those who have taken any part in the politics of Vancouver Island for the last six or eight years. It has been the misfortune of this part of the Colony to have endured much change in its system of government, but that is surely no reason that we should rest contented with the worst system of Government that it has ever been our lot to endure. If Mr. Seymour had done all that was expected of him, by his most ardent admirers, or if, what is more to the purpose, he had set himself earnestly and faithfully to carry out the unpleasant task of reduction, immediately upon Union being consummated, and if the staff of officials had been reduced to a reasonable number of men able and willing to collect and disburse the public moneys, with a strict regard to economy, and with sufficient energy to suggest, plan, and assist in carrying out public works and improvements; then the system could have been tolerated for a time, but no one would have desired the mockery of representation that is allowed to the people in the Legislative Council to have continued for any length of time; the whole system of allowing salaried public servants to have a controlling voice in framing the estimates and voting supplies is so absurd, that it calls for something beyond extraordinary loyalty to tolerate it. History does not hand down a parallel for such a monstrous system of Government being adopted by, or given to any portion of a free country. The Roman Empire certainly appointed governors and taxgatherers over their possessions acquired by right of conquest, but we certainly should be hardly content to be placed on a par with a Roman province. If then the Government had been carried on in as perfect a manner as human ability, energy, tact and perseverance could have carried it on, it would have been un-English and unmanly to have continued satisfied with it for any length of time; it must, of necessity, have reformed at some stage of its career to an increase of the popular element, and the moment such an increase had been asked for. All symptoms of perfection would have vanished had the request met with no response, so inherent is the weakness and natural evil of the system. But instead of the evils of the system having been mitigated by energy of administration, they have been aggravated to a state that has become intolerable by apathy, want of energy, sloth and inattention to business. We should rejoice to be able to chronicle some statesmanlike efforts on the part of any single member of the Executive Council to improve the public administration of the Government of this Colony. Whilst there has been room for so much improvement, it is melancholy to see men, to whom we must give credit for ordinary ability, contented to live from year to year upon the Colony, without making one single effort to redeem the character of the Government of which they are members, without attempting in any way to check the evils of the existence of which they have been to the full as cognizant as the strongest reformer in the Colony, for we will not insult their understanding so far as to hint at their ignorance of the constant continuance of evil; and we hesitate to bring against the Governor an accusation of having neglected the continual and earnest advice of his Executive Council. Had the members of that Council striven anxiously to do their duty, Mr. Seymour must of weariness have yielded to the pressure; he has neither the energy nor the perseverance to withstand it. It is their man-

ifest neglect of duty, and carelessness of the wellbeing of the Colony in those charged with administering its Government, that originated the idea of a Convention; and unless the whole thing begin and end in idea alone, which we are assured it will not, it will be the first step towards putting a speedy end to the present evil. There is a great duty before the Convention; let it perform that duty boldly and effectually, and the Colony will have cause to be thankful. It will be necessary to take measures to place the facts of the Colony's position in a strong light before the Imperial and Dominional Governments; it is difficult to make those at a distance, who are accustomed to the people's voice being heard upon every occasion, believe what goes on under the name of Government, and what is tolerated by Englishmen in the Colonies; doubtless the Home Government, in their first doubt of the possibility of a man placed of his own free will in a position of trust with a distinct course pointed out, having failed altogether or neglected to follow that course, will say can these things be. But the people of this Colony may rest assured that the Colonial Office will not neglect to give due attention to what is plainly put before them; fortunately there is a House of Commons in England whose independent members are not apt to let a grievance be started over when once their sympathies are aroused, and their convictions of its reality established.

## Tuesday Sept 8

**More Dead Indian Bodies.**—We had hoped the last record to be made in this connection was made in a late issue. Not so; for yesterday the dead body of an Indian woman was discovered in a shanty on Government street, owned by M. Passard, and the body of a man was found lying under the blacksmith's shop of Duck & Sandover, next door to Passard's shanty. At 8 o'clock, p. m., although the bodies were found early in the morning, nothing had been done towards their burial, because the responsibility could not be fixed on any particular department owing to the existence of a City Corporation. At that hour a medical certificate was given of the cause of death in the case of the man, and the Coroner took charge of the bodies for interment. Mr. Gibbs, of the Sanitary Commission, when he heard how things were going, gave an order for their burial, leaving it to be decided afterwards who was responsible for the expenses of the funeral. It was yesterday reported that other cases of death amongst the Indians had occurred on the reserve. An Indian woman died on Sunday from lockjaw disease; she had been ill for eighteen months.

**Island Fruit.**—In relation to a paragraph which appeared in yesterday's paper, on Island grown fruit, we were shown samples of apples known as the golden sweet, grown in the garden of Mr. Van Alstine; the red astrachan raised in Mr. Russell's garden, Esquimaux trout with other varieties, together with plums grown in Mr. Trutch's orchard, within the suburbs. We have only to repeat what has before been stated by us, that there is hardly an excuse to import so largely of fruits when similar produce of our own can be had in our own market, very much superior and more wholesome than any we have seen brought from Portland or San Francisco. Beautiful apples and plums of the sort we write of can be had at Walter's, Fort street.

**The Island Expedition.**—Mr. Leach and party have returned from their expedition to the interior, coming down from Comox in a canoe. All that is known at present of the expedition is that it has been unsuccessful in discovering either minerals or good grazing land. The party crossed the Island at some 6,500 feet above the level of the ocean. The formation nearly all the way was granite and trap rock. On following down the Salmon river, the party came through one canyon so broken up that they only travelled a few miles in three days, being obliged in many places to use ropes to get along. Mr. Leach's report will be sent in without delay, and so doubt published.

**Police Court.**—Thomas Newhall, a marine from the Pyralides, appeared before court yesterday as a stranger, and was ordered to be given up to the naval authorities. Jack, a Hydash, was arrested on suspicion of felony, remanded one day. Joe, a Hydash, for some time under remand for stealing marine skins, was discharged. The community will get rid of this celebrity, as he leaves for Sitka on the Saginaw. Ska-las, a Hydash, charged with being concerned in the Indian row at the Reserve on Sunday night, was remanded for one day, that the case might be investigated in the meantime.

The steamer Sir James Douglas left this morning for Nanaimo and way ports. She took up several passengers and a small freight of merchandise.

## Applicable Only to \* \* \*

Thy mild and pensive eyes, their melting glance;  
Their light and radiance, oh how they entrance  
The wanderer; and as the breaking day  
Disperses the night, they scatter grief away.  
And for a while cheat Sorrow of its prey.

**Prospecting.**—The Vancouver Coal Co. are prospecting their ground near Chase river, and expect to strike the coal every day, being down some 300 feet. They are using the drill with iron rods, and a monkey engine. By the development to be made at the river, the company will be governed in sinking another prospect shaft, between there and the present works, which it is anticipated will give them a thorough knowledge of their territory and by which they can safely direct their operations.

**The Small Pox in San Francisco.**—The Health Officer reported as follows during the month ending August 1:—In accordance with Resolution No. 8754, I herewith submit the following report of the epidemic prevailing in this city:—Number of cases reported at this office from June 1st to August 17th, inclusive, 287; number of cases sent to the hospital, 92; treated at home, 195. Total deaths, 122; of which there died in the hospitals, 32; at their homes, 90.

**Live Stock.**—The stock sold at auction yesterday, at Twin Oak Farm, brought what were considered good prices. For instance, 86 head of sheep brought \$4.75 per head; cows mixed lot, from \$35 to \$45; horses, from \$45 to \$65; pigs, large and small, and not very good, \$3.75; two, in pen, brought \$12 each.

**Yale Exhibition.**—Parties having articles of any description for competition at the Yale Agricultural Exhibition on the 17th inst., can gain all necessary information by application at Barnard's Express Office. Total amount of prizes \$600.

**A Fine Hog.**—Mr. N. C. Bailey, of Langley street, has a hog from the stock of Mr. John Parker, of Metochino, nine months old, which weighs over 300 lbs. The animal is entered for exhibition at the next Agricultural Society.

The steam propeller California has left San Francisco for the Southern coast. It is understood she went down to relieve the Gaspee Telfair which had been running between Mazatlan and Acapulco.

**From London.**—The H. B. Co's bark Princess Royal arrived in Royal Roads yesterday afternoon, 137 days from London, all well. She will be towed into Esquimalt harbor to-day and land in the morning.

**The Fire Department.**—There are four candidates in the field for the post of Assistant Chief Engineer, in the coming election.

The telegraph line is again 'O. K.' our despatches of this morning were received direct yesterday.

## Mainland Interior Correspondence.

Near Clinton, 16th Aug. 1868.

**Editor Colonist.**—Some of your readers may have a bugle call of mind, and might like me to dwell on statistical details respecting produce per acre, also of turnips, &c. But the generality, I take it, will limit their interest to the broad questions of agriculture, as it affects the general welfare. Your valuable opportunity at Yale, the Examiner, is doing much real good by drawing attention to the advisability of rotating the crops, and as a necessary consequence, to the introduction of turnips as a staple article of produce. It is a reform in our farming, without which our lands would soon be hopelessly exhausted. It would be useless however for me to urge reasons in favor of its adoption, as in so doing I should be simply reiterating what has already been so ably done in that periodical. I shall therefore pass to other subjects. The editor of the Farmer's Library in the New York edition of Stephens' Book on the Farm, makes this remarkable observation in one of his notes in which a fully concurred: "With no degree of exaggeration it has been said that England's national power has its root in the turnip. I believe in manget wurzel, I love rutabaga, I hold fast by the yellow turnip. In them I see fat cattle through dread winter, in them I see the roast beef of Old England reigning supreme at our Christmas dinners, in them I see the beef that won our battles, that gave broadside for broadside till victory was hailed to our flagstaffs, that builds up the powerful frame of the Anglo-Saxon race." But all this cheer, all this glory, does not deaden within me the remembrance of the golden and purple grapes, the sparkling wines that rejoice the heart of man, nor the large profits to be realized in its culture, manufacture and trade.

## THE CULTURE OF THE GRAPE.

I have a vision of the wild and weird benches of our two great rivers relieved by the graceful foliage of the vine and the purple clusters of the grape, alternating with the richer bottoms and their golden harvests of grain, and resulting in the tankard of rich, mellow wine, as familiar in the household as I hope to see the bowl of home brewed ale. What a boon to the country! How many would it not reconcile to it as a home? Nor can I admit that this glowing picture should class me as a mere visionary, for it is grounded on possible facts. It is well known that where the tomato and melon grow to perfection, as they do in the valleys of the Thompson and Fraser, there need be no fear for the vine as it is a far hardier plant. The pursuit is at once so attractive, the remuneration so great that I wonder at some of our French and Italian fellow colonists not having bathed themselves in this promising investment. I know however one exception, a Provencal, who had his acres in the mines, realized his hopes, would have gladly engaged in this enterprise, seeing no hindrance to its complete success, neither in the quality of the soil nor in the nature of the climate. There are numberless benches along our great rivers utterly worthless for grain crops through want of water, which would grow the vine to perfection, and would thus be added as a source of wealth to the Colony. The great mistake is in supposing that the vine requires rich soil. The more barren and rocky it is, provided the roots are well manured, the richer and sweeter the grape from the increased concentration of dry heat, as is the case on the volcanic ledges of Mount Vesuvius. The winters are by no means so severe upon the vineyard as one would at first suppose, especially if sheltered from the north wind. The vine grows to perfection on the mountain slopes of the Alps, where the cold, if anything, is more intense than in this country, and along the Rhine where the climate much resembles that of the Lower Fraser. I can see no reason why we should not grow our equivalent of the Rhine wine, 'Falerian,' 'Leucima Christi,' and the 'Golden wine of the Lebanon.' If only the spots be carefully chosen for the planting, and the proper amount of skill secured for its cultivation. Neither is the time to wait for a return—three years, very long, which we think nothing for an orchard. Planted at a proper depth—three feet, and skillfully pruned, and perhaps the stems sheltered in winter with wraps of straw, there need be no fear as to the result—good vintage. Then look at the large sum that yearly finds its way to San Francisco to cash our wine bill, good part of which in that event would go to swell the income of our own people. The advantages, which would accrue to us from the culture of the vine are so many and so self-evident, that it is enough to suggest this industry for those who present themselves vividly to the mind. It would be interesting and much to the purpose could we have some statistics from the great wine-growers in California and Australia.

Oh, if our friends of the Latin Church would send us a few of those many Franciscans from Eothen, from Syria, to put up for themselves and be this liquid treasure upon earth, they would indeed be performing a real Catholic good. If our judicial friends of the Lillooet would desist from his thankless task of listening to Chinese fables, and turn his attention to the manufacture of Tokay, which, as an Austrian officer, he must doubtless have tasted straight from the Emperor's cellar, how we should love him! How well he would deserve of the country! GRAPE CULTURE.

**Messrs. Hoy of Lillooet** had some good grapes last year, but the intense cold of last winter somewhat injured the plants. This should not discourage them as it has often happened in Europe, especially in Germany that an intensely severe winter would damage the vines considerably. They are cut down and they grow again. Messrs. Cornwall are trying some slips which they had up from San Francisco, although on a small scale; these gentlemen deserve great credit for their efforts to introduce a new branch of industry hitherto untried in the Colony, and which it is not too much to say will be a very corner stone to the building. I am afraid I am departing widely from my self-imposed duties of chronicler, and becoming a very essayist. A modern chronicler is however far more likely to attempt the historian and philosopher, and more inclined to record his opinions than to give the bare outline of facts and events; and I confess I am one of the number.

## OFFICE AMALGAMATION.

Suppressing, however, as much as possible the irrepressible 'Ego,' and resuming the thread of events, I come to the amalgamation of offices at Clinton which is progressing at a rapid rate; furious, I was going to say. In one man are incorporated the Constable, Postmaster, Toll-collector, Sheriff, Clerk of the Court, and lastly, Telegraphs Operator. Does the monstrous many headed and many limbed God of Indian mythology rise to our fancy? Like Atlas bearing on his shoulders the globe, Mr. Hughes the gentleman in question has accepted a heavy round of responsibilities. Without in the least doubting his high qualifica-

tions and intelligent adaptability, (shall I call it?) the plastic nature of his mind it will be interesting to observe how all these different duties can be discharged by one and the same person, and how they can be extricated from an occasional clash, or jam, or contretemps of part or of the whole of them. How would he act, for instance, supposing the Court in full session, two or three pack-trains and as many teams waiting to pay toll, a drunken row disturbing the peace, important telegrams to be transmitted, the mail arriving, a confusion of dates not at all improbable in these parts, his attendance requiring a few miles away to bring off a sheriff's sale? With these conflicting duties on a man's mind, the most energetic would be in a regular pickle. This I admit is an extreme case, but the more forcibly does it illustrate how any good reform may be overdone. There is one thing very irregular about all this. I believe without precedent, that a Government officer should undertake to serve a private or public company. Let the powers that be concentrate their own work as much as they like, but let them avoid their servants engaging in other people's work. Let them remember that a man cannot serve two masters. The Telegraph Company are of course no enemies to the compact as they save \$40 per month, the former arrangement costing them with board and salary \$50, and they will take good care that their interests do not suffer in other respects.

## THE LILLOOET MAGISTRATE.

The leading article in the British Columbian of 29th ult., entitled 'Lillooet and its Magistrate,' while severely rebuking the many blunders in 'common law and common sense' committed by Mr. Sanders, makes a point in the interests of the public. I refer to his suggestion of dispensing altogether with the services of a paid magistrate. Public sentiment echoes that they could. Men can be found in the district quite competent to fill the post of honorary Justice of the Peace. Some scheme of court fees might be devised to compensate these gentlemen for their loss of time while serving the public. Again the scheme that has worked so well in the case of Mr. Cornwall and Capt. Houghton in the adjoining district, might be extended to ours.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The following items of news I have from Mr. McCulloch, formerly expressman to Big Bend, Hudson Bay store at Savana closed; Mr. Moffatt about leaving Kamloops for Lake Stewart; miners on Tranquille doing well; Chappell supplies the Thompson settlers with Cornwall's flour. Two stores at Tranquille, the flour and saw mills there not complete. From Big Bend the report was that the Black Hawk company had washed up since arrival \$1200. Judge O'Reilly was on a tour to Kamloops and Nicholas Lake, wages stand at from \$80 to \$75 per month for mowers and cradlers, and at that figure you cannot always get them. What a comment on the necessity of a cheap steam communication with San Francisco—our labor market! Anything wonderful I may send you to my news, pray except our grand sales with extreme reserve.

Yours truly, K.

## Agricultural Exhibition.

**Editor Colonist.**—I have observed some discussion in your paper in reference to the prize list for the coming Agricultural Show, and I would venture to suggest a re-organization of that list, which is not only crude, but most incomplete and unsatisfactory. I was present at the show last year, held at New Westminister, which was highly creditable to such a young Colony, but the list on which the selection was brought together was utterly at variance with that published for Victoria, for 1868. A comparison of the two would occupy too much room in your journal, but I would refer the Committee to the list published in the Columbian, from which it will be seen that numerous important articles are entered, to which no reference whatever is made in the Victoria list; in fact garden produce is almost entirely disregarded. Should the Victoria list now published be carried out the show will be pigs at pasture, nihil.

Perhaps, however, some of the celebrated yellow hammer stock may put in an appearance. By-the-way, I thought that a joke until I re-examined the list, but alas I find it too true.

I trust you will ass your endeavors to call the attention of the Committee (if there be one) to the glaring deficiencies, or the show will be culina to the last degree.

Yours, A LOVER OF EXCELLENCE.

## Natural Exhibition.

A. Y. I., Sept. 1st, 1868.

My dear Sir:—I entirely differ from the opinion of John Clayton in his paper in the Agricultural Society have culture with a greater ability than has been obtained by sister science agricultural horticulture seems treated very scornfully; it had no representative in when arranging their rely the usual course of this kind would wed, namely, that of the best specimens of bles in common use, as best collections. The need not have been a half to one dollar, spirit of friendly emulation engendered among cultivate a few rods of leisure hours, and who of the honour of carrying for a brace of cabes coultowers, &c., than trinsic money value of prizes offered for fruits same objections. The poultry list which is able criticism, and calculate intending exhibitor tender mercies of the st remark by way of cannot see any rules or the guidance of the or the judge. I infer or are left to the good price as the case may

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