

The Weekly British Colonist
AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, January 16, 1869

A long and very interesting debate took place yesterday upon the proposition of Dr Helmcken to open negotiations with the United States for the adoption of a Reciprocity Treaty. The hon mover's remarks were undoubtedly able. He supported a partial Reciprocity. While he would open American ports to the admission of many of our native productions, he would only open ours to similar articles from the Americans. Foreign agricultural products he would keep out by imposing a duty. The reciprocity we should then have would be all in our favor, and would prove a splendid thing for us, provided Brother Jonathan—who is said to sleep with both eyes open—should close his optics and doze off while the Treaty was being signed. But, should he happen to be wide awake, he would at once perceive that to return us products similar to those we proposed to send him, would be another instance (on his part) of carrying coals to Newcastle, and naturally would ask the question, How are we to benefit from this arrangement, which admits everything British Columbia has to offer and nothing that we have in our power to send her? It may be quite correct, as our friend the doctor would seem to think, that the Americans need our leading natural productions quite as badly as we need a market for them; but, then, is it not strange that their Statesmen are not found taking the initiative in a measure which is to benefit their own people so vastly? To say to the Americans, We have coal, lumber, fish—everything save agricultural products—in abundance, and these we ask you to admit free of any Customs' charge whatever, and in return for that liberal concession we propose to admit similar articles, and no other, into our ports on the same terms, would be tantamount to saying that we would admit nothing from our neighbors that it would pay them to ship here. To term a treaty so wanting in reciprocal benefits a Reciprocity Treaty would be to bestow upon it a misnomer. It would seem like gridding or superimposing a nauseous dose which the patient would be sure to discover was nauseous because of its attractive covering. It is useless for honorable gentlemen to contend that the Americans, by the decreased cost of articles to the consumers, would profit as much or more than we would. Do not the shippers of the Eastern States, where the busy hum of industry resounded before the war, appeal more forcibly to the United States Government in favor of a reduced tariff on articles required in shipbuilding than any resolutions of our Council could; yet what relief has been afforded the suffering thousands who are thrown out of employment by the exactions of the prohibitive duty? Not the slightest; the Government looks on with equanimity while the British provinces just across the border build the merchant-marine of the world. What, then, is the inconvenience caused in California and Oregon by the imposition of a duty of \$1 25 per ton on 25,000 tons of Nanaimo coal per annum, compared with the distress incurred through the operation of the prohibitive tariff upon the shipbuilding interests of New York? and what prospect is there of the inconvenience of the former attracting the attention of Congress when the sufferings of the latter have failed to procure relief? In our opinion, nothing will be gained by approaching the neighboring Government in a half-and-half spirit on this great question. If we expect them to make sacrifices we must be prepared to make sacrifices too. If we ask them to place our natural productions upon a par with their natural productions, we must be prepared to show them that the benefits conferred by the treaty would be mutual, and that we ask no concessions that we are not prepared to extend in return. Upon any but a broad and liberal basis it would be simply a waste of time to approach the United States Government on the question of Reciprocity.

It is charged that packages of goods in transit from the lower country for Cariboo and other points are systematically plundered of a portion of their contents by ill-disposed vagabonds, who supply the deficiencies with the most convenient articles that may be at hand. If the package be a keg, containing wine or spirits, a gimble-hole is cleverly bored, a few gallons of the liquor drawn off, and its place supplied with water from the nearest spring or brook; if it be a case, one or two bottles are withdrawn from the straw and a stick or stone substituted to make up the deficiency. Flour and sugar suffer in a similar manner, and nearly every description of goods are systematically plundered by the rascals. When the packages reach their destination the trader is naturally indignant at the fraud that has been perpetrated, and, in some instances, the consignor of the goods is blamed for what he is wholly innocent. We direct attention to this matter in the hope that a more careful plan of checking packages through to the diggings will be adopted, so that any abstraction may be speedily known and the chances for detecting the guilty parties enhanced.

THE ESCURIAL is the palace of the Kings of Spain, one of the largest and most magnificent in the world. It was commenced by Philip II., in the year 1562, and the cost of its erection was six millions of ducats. It forms a vast square of polished stone, paved with marble. It may give some notion of the surprising grandeur of this palace to observe that, according to the computation of Francisco de los Santos, it would take up more than four days to go through all its rooms and apartments, the length of the way being reckoned thirty-three Spanish leagues, which is above one hundred and twenty English miles. There are fourteen thousand doors and eleven thousand windows belonging to this edifice.

MECHANICS' LITERARY INSTITUTE BENEFIT. The public should bear in mind the performance for the benefit of the Mechanics' Institute, which takes place on Thursday evening. The object to which the funds accruing will be devoted is a purely philanthropic one, viz: the increase of the Institute's means for the extension of the good it has already effected in this growing community. Careful rehearsals of the respective roles are taking place, and we learn with much pleasure that all the gentlemen who appeared on the late occasion have consented to reappear on the forthcoming day. Seats may be secured to-morrow and on the day of the performance at the box office.

LECTURES ON CHEMISTRY.—The Rev. Mr. Jenne's lectures are likely to be extremely instructing; his well-known ability on scientific subjects ensures a lucid explanation of all intricacies of this important branch of knowledge. It is so rare, in this remote quarter of the globe, to be able to avail ourselves of an intellectual evening's enjoyment, that we cannot too strongly recommend our citizens to seize the opportunity ere it flies. The first of the series will be given this evening at 8 o'clock, p.m., in the St John's lecture room, Douglas street.

SAB.—On Saturday afternoon a well known and respected citizen, suffering from delirium produced by severe illness, rose from his bed, dressed himself and wandered away off into the suburbs. The Police were sent out and after searching all night found him at daylight seated on the ground near Jay's Nursery, exposed to the pitiless pelting of the storm and utterly exhausted. The poor man had wandered all through the stormy night with an aimless purpose and appears to have greatly aggravated his complaint.

OUR SUNDAY COTEMPORARY casts blame in a quarter where it does not belong. The Coroner's jury in the case of the dead equine returned a verdict that she died from the bursting of a blood vessel, but that there was no evidence to indicate that the woman in custody had been accessory to the death. However, an aggravated assault having been subsequently proved, before Mr Pemberton the woman was fined \$60, while under the finding of the jury she must have gone Scot free.

DR DAVIS has called the attention of the Council to the shameful condition of the Metochin and Saanich roads. The mud lies so deep in places in these two much-traveled country thoroughfares that travel by wheeled vehicles is almost suspended and mud-boats must be brought into use if the necessary repairs are longer delayed. We hope the joggling the doctor has given the ministerial memories will not be forgotten until the evil shall have been remedied.

CHARGE OF RIFLING A SHOONER.—Christopher Johnson, a seaman, was brought before the Police Magistrate yesterday on a charge of stealing two Spencer rifles from the cabin of the American schooner Margaret, the property of Capt George Harris. The charge was not fully sustained, and the prisoner was discharged.

A TELEGRAM from Portland, Oregon, announces that the steamship Active has arrived there. She connected with the Ajax at Portland. The G S Wright is also at Portland.

TELEGRAPHING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.—The late severe gales prostrated the tall masts upon which the wires were stretched across the mouth of Sohomish River, W.T., and the repairs yesterday strung the wires on snags and managed to get the report we publish this morning through.

THE WEATHER ABOVE.—Telegrams from the upper country state that snow fell yesterday at the 89-mile post, to the depth of five inches. Weather mild. At Quesselmouth and Soda Creek the snow was six inches deep and the weather mild.

THE ENTERPRISE has been overhauled and repaired and will resume her trips to New Westminster, starting to-morrow or Thursday.

AN INDIAN was brought up before the Police Magistrate yesterday, charged with breaking the bridge of an Indian woman's nose, and upon conviction was fined \$10.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—A meeting of this Board will be held on Wednesday at 12 o'clock, at the office of the President, Dr. Powell.

The Miners' Protection Act.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to facilitate the working of Mineral Lands.

[CONCLUDED.]
XIII. Whenever any adverse claimants to a mine or mining claim, under this Ordinance as aforesaid, (in any other respect than as boundaries as next hereinbefore mentioned) shall appeal before the approval of the survey by the Lands and Works, as hereinbefore mentioned, all proceedings shall be stayed until a final settlement and adjudication in the courts of competent jurisdiction of the rights of possession to such mine or claim has been obtained, when a Crown Grant may issue as in other cases.

XIV. The issue of a Crown Grant to any applicant under this Ordinance, save where obtained by fraud or willful misrepresentation, shall confer and be deemed to confer on the person or persons named therein, an indefeasible and incontestable title in fee simple absolute to all the land specified in such grant, save as hereinafter excepted.

XV. The filing of a certified copy of the application and adverse claim in a court of competent jurisdiction, which claim may be in the form marked C in the Schedule hereto, shall ipso facto be deemed to all intents and purposes whatsoever, the institution of an action or suit in such Court, without any pleadings to determine the right of possession to the mine, claim or land so in dispute.

XVI. The service of the final judgment, adjudication, or order of such court, thereon, or an office copy thereof, with the said Assistant Commissioner, shall authorize such Commissioner, and other the proper authorities in that behalf, to proceed with the issue of the Crown Grant as in ordinary cases.

XVII. Nothing in this Ordinance contained shall be deemed or taken in any way to limit or affect the rights of Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors in or to the Crown Lands of the Colony, other than is herein particularly expressed, or to limit or affect the right of the Crown to make Reserves for Government purposes, or Indian settlements, or roads, bridges, buildings, or other public purposes; or to limit or affect the operation of the 'Gold Mining Ordinance, 1867,' than is herein expressed.

XVIII. No Person, Association, or Company shall be allowed to record more than one Mining Claim at one time, but he or they may by written notice, filed with the said Assistant Commissioner, withdraw from any Claim for which he or they may have applied.

XIX. If any Person, Association, or Company shall apply for and record more than one Mining Claim hereunder, at the same time, the filing of the last of such applications shall ipso facto forfeit all Mining Claims previously recorded, of which Crown Grants had not been obtained, and all improvements thereon, without compensation. Every forfeiture under this Ordinance shall be absolute, any Law or Rule to the contrary notwithstanding.

XX. In any Mineral Lands not included in any particular District of any Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Works under this Ordinance, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Surveyor General shall have all the powers and authorities over such lands, for all the purposes of this Ordinance, as an Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Works would have had hereunder over such lands had they been specifically included in the particular District of such Assistant Commissioner.

XXI. It shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time, by notice published in the Government Gazette, to divide the Mineral Lands into Districts for the purposes of this Ordinance, and to define the same, and from time to time, after the like notice, to revoke, alter, or vary the same, as circumstances may appear to require.

XXII. Upon proof satisfactory to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Surveyor General, or other person appointed for the time being in that behalf by the Governor, and a Certificate in writing from such Commissioner or other person to the effect that any individual applicant for a Crown Grant has expended in bona fide mining the Sett or Mining Claim for a grant of which he is applying to the extent of not less in any case than One thousand dollars, or (if an association or company of three or more persons) of not less than Five thousand dollars, it shall be lawful for a Crown Grant to issue to such person, association, or company, without the payment of any, or of only a portion of the upset price herein fixed for the land to be included in such Grant, should the Governor in his discretion so determine.

XXIII. The several fees mentioned in the Schedule hereto shall be taken upon the several matters and things set opposite the respective amounts in such Schedule particularly mentioned, and shall be deemed, recovered, and accounted for as part of the General Revenue.

XXIV. In the construction of this Ordinance, the following expressions shall have the following interpretations respectively, unless there be something inconsistent or repugnant thereto in the context:

The words "Her Majesty" or "The Crown" shall mean Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors.

The word "Governor" shall mean and include any person administering the Government of this Colony.

The terms "Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Works," "Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Surveyor General" shall mean and include any person appointed by the Governor to act in lieu of those Officers respectively, for the purposes of this Ordinance.

The word "Mine" shall mean any locality in which any vein, lode, or stratum, or natural bed of Silver or other mineral than gold, including coal, shall be mined; and the verb "to mine" shall include any mode or method whatsoever of working the same for the purpose of obtaining the ore, mineral, or metal therefrom.

"Mining Claim" shall mean and include the interest acquired, or sought to be acquired, in any mineral lands under this Ordinance.

"Mineral Lands," for the purposes of this Ordinance, shall mean and include all waste lands of the Crown in the mainland of the Colony of British Columbia, including Queen Charlotte's Island, and such other portion or portions of the said Colony as shall hereafter be brought under the provisions of this Ordinance, by any Proclamation or Proclamations by the Governor in that behalf, and which land shall be available for mining purposes, and whether surveyed or unsurveyed, in which lodes, veins, beds, or strata of silver, tin, copper, lead, coal, iron, cinabar or other metal or mineral, other than gold, and whether discovered or hidden, are now or hereafter shall be found in place, and not for the time being occupied by any other person, or in any way reserved, or the site of an existing or proposed town, within one hundred yards of any message, orchard, garden or ornamental grounds, on which is situated.

XXV. Provided that this Ordinance shall not take effect until Her Majesty's approval thereof shall have been duly published in this Colony.

XXVI. This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as the "Mining Ordinance 1869."

FEES.
Upon the record of every application for a Mining License, or for a renewal thereof, 5 Dollars
Upon the record of every Grant of Mining License, or a prolongation thereof, 5 Dollars
Upon the record of every Crown Grant, 25 Dollars
Upon the record of every other matter and thing under this Ordinance, 2 Dollars and 50 cents

A GENTLEMAN and his wife were playing at one of the tables in Baden, in the midst of a crowd. "Hold," said the lady, "an idea! 'What is it?' 'I am going to bet on the number of my own age.' All right," replied the husband, without turning his head, being occupied in ogling a pretty waiter. His wife placed a louis on the number twenty-five. "Thirty-six," drawled the croupier, in a nasal tone. "Thirty-six, you have won," exclaimed the husband with delight. Madame red-dened to her eye-brows, watched the rake as it drew away, the louis from number twenty-five and quitted the room, vowing never to lie again about her age.

UNDER the name of "Jumpers" a new sect has been formed in West Prussia. At their 'Marriage with the Heavenly Bridegroom,' as they call it, they fall into ecstasies expressed by wild jumping. The whole congregation rises at a certain moment in order to imitate David's dancing before the Ark. This new sect is chiefly recruited from a village near Saatzig, where some years ago a virgin commenced prophesying with great success, until the Government sent her to the workhouse.

A TELEGRAM from St Petersburg announces that the conference now being held there for the purpose of prohibiting the use of explosive bullets in war has decided that no such missiles shall be used of less weight than 400 grammes.

A Kingdom without a King—Republicans Without a Republic.

Prim has been twitted with the absurdity of proposing 'a monarchy without a monarch.' He has retorted by a taunt to his adversaries that they would proclaim a republic without republicans. Both these assertions were true a month ago. Are they still correct at this present moment? Most decidedly Prim has not found his monarch. Indeed, by his hesitation and inaction, by his unaccountable reticence, he has almost brought the country to despair of a monarch—he has shaken his nation's faith in a monarchy. Kings do not in our days fall from heaven; nor do they come in the shape of young drovers looking for their father's asses, nor as middle-aged travellers driving to town in their gigs with their wives and accepting such omens as the flight of wild birds may portend. It is for time alone to show whether it was owing to mere chance or to deep calculation that Prim has brought the country to its present predicament. But, whatever may have been, or may be, Prim's real purpose, there can be little doubt as to his ability to work it out.

Were Prim to cast the weight of his sword in behalf of a republic, and it is by no means impossible that he may be driven to those straits in the end, it is by no means impossible that he has acted upon that plan, from the beginning, a republic may still be the upshot. But if Castelar's views are to be realized, in spite of Prim and the army, there must be either a conflict in which the army may be overpowered, or a combination by which the army may be won over or neutralized. So long as the army exists in Spain the mastery of the situation lies with it; it lies usually with its leaders. No doubt republicanism has of late advanced with great strides. Monarchy is still without a monarch, but republicanism is no longer at a loss for republicans. They number thousands here in Madrid, hundreds of thousands in the northeastern and southwestern provinces. Every hour that is lost awells their numbers, enlists in their behalf the people's sympathies, associates with their general aims a variety of local ambitions, a multitude of personal interests.

Republican Utopianism finds a ready ally in that self, whose only principle is success, yet which by mere weight carries success with it. Every day the provisional government has less to give; every day the applications for its gifts increase; every day additions to the disappointed, to the discontented list. Every day, for aught we know, may bring on the conflict; but there is little doubt as to its result, so long as the army maintains its compact attitude, obedient to one will, devoted to one man. Prim seems to me penetrated with the importance of this fact; he seems all engrossed with his own branch of the administration, he seems bent on no other object than to make the army his own. Prim is silent but assiduous work should not be overlooked. It is by its light that one should read Senor Castelar's effusion; by its light that we should endeavor to come to an estimate of the issue of any possible conflict. There is one point in which no innovation whatever has been effected in Spain. Spain has still her army. She is still—she is more than ever—at the mercy of the army. That army may harbor no sinister designs. It may wish for no conflicts; it may long for hearty and thorough fraternization. Its leaders may mediate no encroachment on popular liberties. He may, on the contrary, aspire to their fullest development and consolidation. Still that army and its leader must be taken into account in every movement. Should the movement lead to a collision no one can answer for the consequences. It is not a republic that is to be feared; it is that three or four days' anarchy which is sure to lead to one knows how long a period of military dictatorship.

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OCCIDENTAL BUILDING.

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FRUIT TREES,

Consisting of the most approved varieties of the Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry, etc.,

True to name
For health, vigor and growth the Trees are unequalled. Also, a lot of English Holly, Hawthorn, Standard Dwarf Roses, and a General Nursery Stock.

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MELAN'S LITTLE GEM, a wrinkled marrow, 2 1/2 feet;
MELAN'S ADVANCE, a wrinkled marrow, 2 1/2 feet;

And RIVERHEAD, a smooth kind, 3 1/2 feet, are the best and earliest Peas in cultivation, are quite new and highly recommended.

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