

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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A Destructive Projectile.

Late English papers furnish particulars of a series of highly interesting and important experiments made at Shoeburyness that go far to establish the truth of the theory that science is farther advanced in offence than in defence. The whole system of the British naval armaments was revolutionised by the invention of the Armstrong, Whitworth and other destructive guns, and millions have since spent upon constructing an armoured fleet whose massive broadsides would, it was thought, resist the indentations of the most powerful projectiles that could be hurled against them, but so far all the efforts to construct invulnerable targets have proved unavailing against improved ordnance and projectiles, and the experiments made with a missile invented by one Major Palliser have brought about results that may cause the Lords of the Admiralty to pause and determine whether their future efforts will not be better devoted towards increasing the offensive instead of strengthening the defensive power of the navy. The Palliser projectile, constructed of what is termed chilled metal, was tested with Firth's steel shot in order to ascertain the best form of shell for penetrating and destructive effect, and also the relative value for such results of steel as compared with the chilled metal. All the shots were fired from a nine-inch muzzle-loading wrought-iron rifle gun, with charges of no less than 43 lb. of powder, the weight of each shot or shell being 250 lb. The first steel shot struck the ground first, the second hit the vertical part of the target and buried itself to a depth of five inches, doing no further damage. The third, a flat headed projectile, penetrated the target to a depth of six inches and a half, but caused no damage beyond starting two bolts. The last produced less effect, and sprang back after making an indent of about four inches and a half. The Palliser chilled shell was then tried, one of which pierced the target—which was stronger than the broadside of any ship afloat—and passed completely through everything, plate, backing and inner skin, and lodged itself, after exploding, in some timber about twenty feet behind the target. "Anything more crushing," says one of the accounts, "than the shock of this projectile it would be difficult to conceive, for it struck full upon one of the strongest vertical parts of the target, and tore its way through as if only opposed by a timber screen. Another penetrated 19½ inches, seriously bulging and injuring the backing. Experiments were then made at the inclined wing of the target, one shell passing nearly through and remaining embedded to a depth of 12½ inches. The chilled shot was equally successful with the shell. The first shot fired at the incline struck the vertical part of the target and passed completely through an eight-inch plate, smashing one of the powerful

ribs behind it. Other shots were tested, but none succeeded in getting half way through the target. The form of the successful projectile was conical, and there was in consequence a strong leaning in favor of that form. Many previous experiments had been made with the chilled metal, all tending to prove its superiority over any other description of projectile; among others was a target representing the broadside of the British Navy, the strongest iron-plated ship of the British navy, through which Major Palliser sent one of his shells with the same ease that it penetrated the ponderous defenses at Shoebury. But the chief recommendation to its immediate adoption by the service is its cheapness. Steel shot and shell cost the country from five to twenty pounds sterling each, but Palliser's simple process can be effected at a fifth of that cost.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

QUICK WORK AT NANAIMO.—The American bark Delaware, Captain Charles E. Shillaber, towed by the Isabel, left Esquimalt harbor at 5 o'clock on Tuesday morning last, in ballast, for Nanaimo; she reached Nanaimo the same evening. The next morning, at 7 a.m., commenced taking in 384 tons of coal; finished loading at 5 p.m. of the day following, and hauled out from the wharf, having lain alongside only 46 hours, and having consumed only 16 working hours taking in the entire cargo; but for a dead calm occurring, the bark would have passed out of Nanaimo harbor in less than 48 hours from the time of entering it. On the following morning (Friday) the bark beat out of the harbor and stood across the gulf, encountered the severe southeast gale on the night of the same day, which drove her back somewhat; on Saturday she regulated the lost ground, and yesterday afternoon she put her anchor at Beacon Hill, and stood off around Race Rocks with a fair wind and every prospect of making the quickest round trip between Nanaimo and San Francisco yet accomplished. That a sea-going vessel could leave Victoria on Tuesday last, proceed to Nanaimo, load there and pass Race Rocks in five days thereafter, is a fact worthy of record, both as an evidence of the facilities that the Coal Company possess for loading vessels, as well as a tribute to the energy and skill of the worthy captain, who is one of the most lively, go-ahead Yankee skippers we have encountered.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION on Friday resulted in the return of Mr William John Macdonald as Mayor, by a majority of 57 votes, and Messrs M. W. Gibbs and J. W. Trahey as Councillors for James Bay Ward. Mr Macdonald headed the Poll from the commencement, and in spite of the efforts of Bunster's supporters, and the gratuitous services of some jolly tars, who advocated the claims of their candidate with characteristic humor, steadily increased his lead until the close. At 11 a.m., the votes stood 40 to 14; at noon, 58 to 21; at 1 p.m., 70 to 21; at 2 p.m., 79 to 30; at 3 p.m., 84 to 34, and at the close, 94 to 37. For the Ward, the two Councillors elect had it all their own way, the other two candidates being absent. The election went off quietly, but little public interest being manifested in the proceedings. After the declaration of the result by the Sheriff, the candidates addressed the voters and the meeting dispersed.

THE STEAMER ENTERPRISE arrived on Saturday from New Westminster with fifty passengers, among whom were Messrs: Thos. Harris, Laumeister, Hoffmeister and others from Cariboo, and Messrs. A. Elliott, Calder, Orr and others from Big Bend. The news from Cariboo has been anticipated. Those who remained late in Big Bend have sufficient confidence in the country to return there in the spring. They say that up to the present time, although there are no shallow diggings to employ a population, nothing is known of the wealth of the country, and if pay is struck on the bed rock, which is anticipated, since the Fort Yale Co. found prospects in their drift, there will yet be considerable mining done in that section.

THE "PRINCE OF WALES" will sail on or about the 20th inst. for London, carrying freight and passengers.

TERMINATED.—The ocean mail subsidy to New Westminster has expired.

BELL RINGERS.—Blaisdell's Company of Swiss Bell Ringers, who arrived from Portland on Friday, gave their first entertainment in the theatre on Saturday evening. The programme was varied and attractive; consisting, besides the beautiful performances with the bells, of character songs and dances by the vivacious and clever Miss Clara, and instrumental performances by members of the company, the most noticeable of which was Madame Blaisdell's fine solo on the harp. The entertainment will be repeated to-night, and as it is impossible to realize without oral demonstration the sweetness of melody that can be produced from bell metal, none should miss the opportunity of enjoying a rare treat.

RIFLE MATCH.—On Saturday, Private Newbury won the breech-loading rifle given by Chief Justice Needham, scoring 54 points; Private Soar coming next with 52 points; ranges 200, 300, 400 and 600 yards. Private Allsop was the All Comers' Prize, scoring 27 points, ranges 150 and 200 yards. Target 6 ft. x 2 ft.; bulls-eye 3 in. diameter. Six different rifles contended, but the prize was won with the long Enfield, private Gerow, who fired with a heavy rifle, being second, and making 26 points.

THAT enormous specimen of marine architecture called the Leviathan—drawing 2 feet 6 inches of water—was run on the rocks at Laurel Point on Friday, with Governor Seymour and party on board, and remained hard and fast until the Emily Harris, with the President of the Chamber of Commerce and party on board, came to her rescue. In towing the Leviathan off the Emily Harris nearly pulled away the former's deck house.

DEATH OF G. E. DENNES.—Letters received by the last mail announce the demise, on shipboard, of the unfortunate gentleman whose name heads this paragraph. Mr. Dennes was on his way to England at the time, having embarked at San Francisco some months ago. Mr. Dennes was a supporter of no mean ability, and represented Salt Spring Island for a part of the last session in our Legislative Assembly.

WESLEYAN SABBATH SCHOOL.—Rev. A. Brown preached the anniversary sermon of the Sabbath School connected with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, yesterday afternoon. A large number of persons attended. This evening, at 7 o'clock, there will be singing, recitations and dialogues by the children. All are invited to attend.

THE ACTIVE.—This steamship went to sea at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. She had about 125 passengers and 60 tons of freight. Among the passengers were Captain and Mrs. Fleming, Messrs. K. Adams, Morris Greenbaum, E. B. Marvin, Burrage, & Co. the rest being chiefly miners and discharged workmen of the telegraph company.

THE EXAMINER.—The new paper has made its bow at New Westminster. It is about the size of the late British Columbia Tribune, and presents a neat typographical appearance. Its editorial evinces vigor and good sound sense, and its advertising columns are already well filled. We wish our new contemporary success.

CURT-TAILED BY A TAILOR.—A tailor was recently convicted in the Liverpool (Eng.) police court of feloniously cutting off the tails of a number of coats belonging to people in a crowd which had congregated opposite the Adelphi Theatre. He had accumulated quite a pile of cloth when arrested.

DEPARTURE.—Governor Seymour and Mrs. Seymour, accompanied by Administrator Birch and Mr. Stapleton, departed for New Westminster on Saturday morning during the S. E. gale, on the Government tug St. James Douglas.

POLICE COURT.—Joseph Dobrin charged William Harris, on Friday, with assaulting him. Accused pleaded guilty and was fined \$1 and costs. Several Indians charged with various offences were remanded until Monday.

A QUARTZ MILL.—The Examiner announces that Mr. Dougal, late of Victoria, is about to bring up from San Francisco a ten-stamp quartz mill, which he proposes to erect somewhere up-country.

FLIGHT OF METEORS.—To-morrow or the next day we may expect, according to the predictions of Professor Newton, to witness the great fall of meteors. Look out for your stovepipes.

BASE BALL.—The match between the Olympic Base Ball Club and the Victoria Cricket Club on Friday, resulted in the defeat of the former by 30 runs.

REPORT.—The report that the Hon. W. A. G. Young will be retained as Colonial Secretary of the united colonies is renewed. We trust that it is true.

Australia.
By the way of Panama we have Sydney dates of September 11th and Melbourne dates of August 26th:

NEW SOUTH WALES.
Several more bodies, mementoes of the late storms at Newcastle, have been washed ashore at that place and buried.
The third session of the Fifth Parliament of New South Wales was opened on the 24th of July by the Governor.
J. C. Laycock has resigned his seat as a member of the Legislature.

The Sydney Herald says it is stated that a bill to amend the Waggarrago Bill, under the name of Castro, but his designation is Roger Charles Tichbourne. He is going home to claim his inheritance.

The Ragged School of Sydney are progressing rapidly. At the examination on July 27th about 300 children were present, mostly girls.

The weather in Sydney during August was intensely cold.

Eight adult Chinamen were baptised at Christ Church on July 31st, by the Very Rev. Dean of Sydney.

The bill to enable three-fourths of a jury to return a verdict was defeated in the Assembly by 17 to 11 votes.

Kerosene shale has been found on a farm near Dlawara.

The Sydney gold coin is to be made current in Great Britain at par.

A bill to authorize the punishment of drunkards has passed the Sydney Assembly and Council.

Sydney is to be completely paved and the roads and streets generally improved.

The Singleton Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibition, during the last week of August, was a brilliant affair. The Governor also opened the new bridge during this time.

VICTORIA.

The new Governor of Victoria, Sir J. Manserv Sutton, K. C. B., arrived in Melbourne on August 15th, and was duly sworn in the next day. On August 22d he held his first levee in the Exhibition Building, Lady Manserv Sutton and her daughter were present.

The doctor, first, second and third officers of the emigrant ship Palmtree, have been fined and imprisoned for indecently assaulting several of the female passengers while on the high seas.

From our Melbourne files we extract the following:

The Government of Victoria having refused to contribute towards the Panama, New Zealand and Australian line, found that their mails were left behind, although forwarded to New Zealand in time. The only way that such mails can be sent by the Panama route will be by way of Sydney, at an increased rate of postage.

The *Australian News* of July 27th states that during the present year 959,804 ounces of gold have been sent from Melbourne to England. From June 5th to July 14th, four ships left this port with no less than 202,160 ounces of the precious metal, of which about 40,000 ounces were the produce of New Zealand. The export of wool from the same port since the commencement of this year is 52,090 bales.

QUEENSLAND AND BRISBANE.

A financial crisis has taken place in Queensland, and is likely to be very serious. It originated with the failure of Agra & Masserman's Bank in London and East Indies. The Government tried to remedy the crisis by an issue of \$1,000,000 in Treasury notes or "greenbacks," and the question came up in the Assembly and was defeated. The Ministry then resigned. The next Ministry passed through both houses a bill for the issue of \$1,500,000 in Treasury bonds at 10 per cent. This is considered disastrous upon the colony. A political crisis ensued, and other ministries have since been in office. Business has been suspended and great distress is evident. In consequence of Governor Brown's opposition to the Treasury note scheme, the colonists, at a public meeting, resolved to petition the Queen of Great Britain for its recall.

The Queensland *Daily Guardian* states that a great deal of excitement was occasioned at Brisbane on Tuesday, July 24th by the stoppage of payment by the Bank of Queensland; but that there is no doubt that in a short time the bank would resume payment, and no less whatever would accrue to depositors or holders of notes belonging to the bank. The liabilities of the bank amount to \$123,200, and its assets to \$361,900. The major portion of the capital of the bank is invested in the colony.

TASMANIA.

The Tasmanian papers are rather meagre of interesting news.

The Governor of the colony opened the Parliament on July 31st.

A monument to Sir John Franklin has lately been erected in Hobart Town.

By a late return it appears that the area of Tasmania, exclusive of islands and lakes, is 15,571,500 acres; area of alienated land, 348,010 acres; area of unalienated land, including lakes, 13,374,990 acres. Estimating the population at 95,000 souls, that gives rather more than 35,000 acres of alienated land for every man, woman and child in the colony.

New Zealand.

By the last steamer from Panama we have New Zealand dates of September 9th:

The Cook's Strait submarine cable was laid successfully on August 17th. Telegraphic communication can now be had between Wellington and the whole important part of Middle Island.
The "natives," or Indians of the Northern

Island are stated, semi-officially, to number not more than 30,000.

A project is on foot to light the city of Wellington with gas. The capital (£10,000), is to be raised by 1,000 shares at \$50 per share on limited liability.

Fire alarm towers are being erected in Wellington for the purpose of calling together the brigade in case of fire.

Building is going on rapidly in Wellington. The city of Auckland had been the scene of several very disastrous fires, the supposed work of incendiaries. The offices of the Panama Steam Navigation Company, the Waiwaka Hotel, with other offices and stores were destroyed by fire on the night of August 27th. Loss, above \$100,000, insured in London and Australian offices to nearly half the amount.

From Taranaki and Hawks Bay the principal news consists of the successful working of the oil springs.
On the 7th of August a large fire broke out in Nelson, N. Z., destroying three hotels, the Temperance Hall, the Young Men's Christian Association, and thirteen other buildings. Loss about \$60,000.

A rumor was circulated that gold in large quantities was to be found near Tarawiti; but it was discovered to be *canara* which soon failed to gain believers.
Wellington will doubtless be chosen as the headquarters in Australasia for the Panama, New Zealand and Australian line of steamers, which are now already being repaired in that port.

The following official changes have been announced in the Government organ, as from the office of the Private Secretary of Wellington, under date of August 24th:

Colonial Treasurer.—Hon. William Fisher, in the place of Hon. Francis Jollie, resigned.

Paymaster General.—Hon. John Hall, in the place of Hon. James Patterson, resigned.

Commissioner of Customs.—Hon. James Crowe Richmond, in the place of Hon. Andrew Hamilton Russell, resigned.

The Hon. James Larkins C. Richardson has been appointed a member of the Executive Council, in addition to the three gentlemen above enumerated.

A British Columbian Immigration Scheme.

LONDON, Sept. 22, 1866.

Messrs. Editors.—Governor Seymour left Southampton on Monday for British Columbia, and will be with you, doubtless, soon after your receipt of this communication. He has worked very hard for the colony since he arrived in England, and has its interests thoroughly at heart. I have reason to know, that he could have obtained the Governorship of Queensland, the climate of which is more like that he has been accustomed to in previous years; but the deep interest he felt in your colony caused him to prefer it. Be assured, he is very anxious to push the colony (no particular section of it) forward;—help him all you can. You will find him a hard-working, pushing man of business, who will do all in his power to promote the best interests of the colonists.

Governor Seymour is strongly in favor of a liberal emigration scheme, and will be prepared to bring one forward when the Council meets. The gift of land will attract many; but the passages of emigrants must be paid if you wish population of a permanent character to reach your shores. The colony of Queensland has made wonderful strides, owing to her liberal immigration system; five years since, her revenue was £178,589; last year it had increased to £261,431—her exports and imports in the aggregate were in 1860, £1,265,500; last year they were £3,514,308—her population in 1860 was 28,827; last year it was estimated at 90,000. Upwards of 35,000 persons have been sent to Queensland under her admirable immigration system; the passages of over 28,000 of these were paid for by the colony. To produce such rapid progress in British Columbia, the expenditure of a fourth of your revenue every year would not be too much. All classes of the community would benefit by the energy carried out of a good system of immigration. Mr Jordan, the Agent-General for Emigration for Queensland, from inquiries he made when in that colony last year, estimated that the 25,000 emigrants, who had up to that time been sent from this country, had carried with them into the colony the large sum of £1,000,000! Such an influx of capital and labor into British Columbia within the next few years, would prove of incalculable benefit to all classes, and tend to place British Columbia in the position which her vast resources entitle her to occupy.
A BRITISH COLUMBIAN.

AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT.

Gen. Grant expresses the opinion that there was a deliberate purpose to assassinate the President at Indianapolis. The *Herald* of that city says: Gen. Grant said that the first shot fired came from a second story window on the opposite side of the street; that the ball struck one of the Chinese lanterns suspended from the window of the President's room, and, entering the room, passed within three feet of his own head. He expresses the opinion that it was a deliberate attempt to assassinate Mr Johnson.

NOTICE.

Mrs Digby Palmer begs to inform her pupils, and the public that she intends holding her Dancing Class twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from 8 to 11 o'clock, commencing on the 1st November next, at the Sing-Verein Hall Exchange Buildings, Government street. *