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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 10. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1868 NO. 8

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One Week	0 25

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We observe that that unparalleled absurdity—the Saving's Bank Bill—has passed a first reading in the Council without debate. We cannot discover what object the Government has in view by this measure, unless it be (as a correspondent shrewdly remarked the other morning), to pay something like seventeen per cent. for money that might be had in the London market for six. Money may be had here on real estate, at from twelve to eighteen per cent. per annum. Does the Government anticipate that with the General Revenue as security, the depositor would be satisfied with a lower rate of interest than he could obtain for his money with real estate as security? Or, is the amount of capital lying unemployed in the hands of the only class that could avail itself of the accommodation, sufficiently large to make it an object for the Government to embark in an enterprise which, say all they may of this or that officer carrying it on without additional salary, will add materially to the expense of Government and to the interest account? If the object of the Government be to lavish surplus (!) funds upon speculative enterprises, there are many operations in which it might engage that would pay handsomely. But with our small population, and with money in demand for general business purposes at three times the London rate of interest, a Savings Bank appears to us as one of the most unpromising enterprises that a Government or private parties could engage in. Of the general principle of Savings Banks we are in favor, having observed their success in other countries and the benefits they confer on the working class. But it does not follow, because the principle is commendable, that a Government is bound to become bankers. It might be, and is, desirable to drive a tunnel through the Rocky Mountains, or to build a railroad to Cariboo; but is our Government, in its present financal condition, bound to prosecute either of the enterprises at a geat loss because it would confer benefits on a couple of thousand men?

ATTENTION has lately been called to the deterioration which coal suffers from exposure to the weather, and to the importance of keeping it as dry as possible. Anthracite suffers the least, bituminous the most. According to the experiments of Grundmann, coal exposed to the weather in heaps lost, during a period of nine months, fifty per cent of its value as fuel, and about as much as a gas-making material; it undergoes a process of slow combustion, taking up oxygen and giving off the volatile products of oxydation—air and moisture playing the principal part, and warmth promoting it; the valuable combustion ingredients are lost, and the injurious ones, as sulphur, oxygen and ash, are relatively increased. Coke from weathered coal is of inferior quality, losing its coherence. Neither wood nor coal can bear long exposure to the elements without losing a large share of its real value as fuel.

A DISHEVELLED looking Siwash was yesterday charged with stretching his legs *a la Squeers* and then stretching his person altogether on the sidewalk, for which he was fined five shillings or six hours' imprisonment—the latter mode of satisfying the ends of justice being adopted.

Thursday Dec 24

THE APPROACH of old Father Christmas is heralded by the good things displayed in our stores, that our citizens may celebrate his advent. Old and young, rich and poor, all are glad to welcome our hoary old friend, the beams from whose countenance spreads joy throughout the universe. For those of our ladies who seek to propitiate the 'old buck' by dancing, and a display of fancy toilettes, we recommend a visit to the store of Messrs Turner, at the London House; the rich display of everyhing connected with ladies' dress is really fine to look upon, for its variety in color and effect. In the same line we may also mention Messrs Findlay & Durham, whose magnificent stock of dry goods [illegible] experience the 'sweet' influence of the 'forte' in Mr Piper's window, where every freak of fancy is artistically produced in his 'candid' manner. How our infantile population can tear themselves away from the fascinating view, is more than we can imagine. To those ladies and gentlemen who desire to bestow Christmas presents on their friends, we recommend a visit to the store of Messrs Hibben & Co, where the neatest and most complete writing desks may be had at reasonable prices; also, a choice variety of illustrated books in handsome bindings, and numberless other articles splendidly adapted for souvenirs. Pass we now to the consideration of creature comforts, the most welcome sacrifices on the altar of Christmas. First, for the 'jolly roast beef' of Vancouver Island, we must give the palm to Harris, whose store in Government street would make the heart of any Alderman glad with roasts and tender-loins, the most fastidious caterer for Christmas may be supplied to his heart's content. For luscious cakes we must go to Piper's or Mrs Levy's store, on Government near Johnson street, where an old English Christmas is recalled by seeing the self same sugar plums, in appearance, that we remember long, long ago. The grocery stores have apparently larger stocks of currents, raisins, candied lemon and all the other *ibias* that make their stores the source whence all the materials for plum pudding [illegible] Murray, who might, 'with a few alterations,' personate Father Christmas himself, proposes to produce the currant buns and shortbread for which he is so justly celebrated, in quantity sufficient to supply all the consumers in Victoria. There can be no doubt that our streets present a more busy and cheerful appearance than they did this time last year, and we doubt whether we could point to a more striking proof of our steady advance in wealth and prosperity.

THE STEAM FIRE ENGINE—The Tiger Engine Company, accompanied by a part of the Union Hook and Ladder Company, received their handsome new steamer yesterday, and tested her working capacity at the cistern corner of Yates and Government streets. A large number of spectators gathered to witness the experiments, which were conducted under the supervision of Mr Burnes, foreman of the Tigers. The fire was started under the boiler upon the arrival of the engine at the cistern. The fuel was light sticks and grease. Steam was generated in 9½ minutes, and in 12 minutes after the starting of the fire a stream of water was thrown. The new machinery worked stiff. The weather was unfavorable, and at times a high wind converted many feet of the stream into spray, so that the power of the engine was not fairly tested. The length of time consumed in getting up steam is explained to have been caused by the presence of oil in the boiler, which ran in while the plates were being screwed together. Under ordinary circumstances steam can be generated in 7 to 8 minutes, and as the fire will be kindled while the engine is leaving her house in answer to an alarm, no unnecessary time need be wasted for that purpose. Following is a statement of the performance of the engine, derived from Messrs Gowen and Thain, who carefully measured the length of each stream:

FIRST TRIAL—Two streams, each through 300 feet of hose, 1¼ inch nozzle; distance 180 feet; average, 182 ft.
SECOND TRIAL—Two streams, each through 150 feet of hose, 1¼ inch nozzle; mean level thrown, 176 feet; average pressure of steam, 60 lbs.
THIRD TRIAL—Two streams, each through 150 feet of hose; 1⅜ inch nozzle; mean level, 149¾ ft.
FOURTH TRIAL—One stream, through 50 feet of hose; 1 5-16 inch nozzle; mean level, 196 feet; being equal to a recent trial in London—Merryweather vs. Shank & Mason.

Considering the combination of unfavorable circumstances mentioned above, the results are highly satisfactory; and we entertain not the slightest doubt that at the first 'working' fire the new steamer will perform even better service than is promised by her builders. After the trial the Company, with their friends and the Chief and Assistant Engineers, retired to the Alhambra and partook of a collation, to which ample justice was done.

THE first snow fell yesterday morning; but melted immediately.

The Sir James Douglas, Capt Clarke, arrived yesterday evening from Nanaimo, bringing 10 passengers. Her freight included 3 tons of oats, a number of dead hogs, bacon, poultry, etc. She made a remarkably quick trip, having accomplished the passage in 8¾ hours (including calls at way ports). Captain Clarke informs us that he was compelled to break a passage for his vessel through the ice, which had formed near and around Nanaimo to the thickness of half an inch. Snow fell at Nanaimo to the depth of six inches, and was so dense on the passage down to five miles below Cowichan, as to oblige them to use the compass in steering. She reports the Black Diamond as likely to complete her lading to-day. The Douglas saw some small craft on their way down [illegible] Indians [illegible] in landing her whales, and one had been sold to Mr Levi, who resold it with privilege of buying the oil.

OUR notice of the Concert by the choir of St John's Church at the Alhambra Hall on Tuesday evening was necessarily short. The pieces in the second part were evidently the most admired by the audience, and the songs by Miss Alice Palmer were executed with much taste and great sweetness. This young lady gives promise of great future success in the art. Mrs Rhodes' cavatina was delightfully executed. Miss Pitts performed a solo on the pianoforte with brilliant effect. Mrs Kent sang 'The four leaved Shamrock' and 'The merry, merry Sunshine' very pleasingly. Miss Louisa McDonnell performed 'Old Hundred,' with variations, most creditably. A hitch occurred in rendering 'God save the Queen,' but after trying back, the national anthem was accomplished very nicely. We were pleased to see his Excellency the Governor and Mrs Seymour present, who seemed to enjoy themselves.

A PERSON was charged yesterday before Mr Pemberton with having unlawfully removed certain trees from the public Cemetery. It appeared from the evidence of Sergeant Bowden that the trees had been placed in the cemetery (but not yet planted) for the purposes of ornamentation. After certain observations on the part of Mr Bishop, who appeared for the defence, the case was postponed for one day.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.—The annual invasion of the city by the forest is taking place, and boughs, and in some instances whole trees, are being pressed to do duty in front of shop-doors and in churches. St John's and Christ Church Cathedral, the Catholic Cathedral are all being tastefully decorated in commemoration of the advent of our Saviour.

ON the 1st November, for the first time since the Reformation, a Roman Catholic Church was added to the other places of worship in the royal borough of Windsor, a handsome church, dedicated to St Edward the Confessor, being consecrated by Archbishop Manning, assisted by Dr Grant, bishop of Southwark.

THE Hon Gerritt Smith has written a letter to 'President Grant' urging, as the only means of bearing out in his policy his motto, 'Let us have Peace,' a complete acknowledgement of the perfect freedom and equality of Indians, Chinese and Negroes. This he declares to be the desire of many hundred thousands of those who voted for Grant.

The G S Wright will sail from Portland for Victoria to-day.

Letter from Port Townsend.

PORT TOWNSEND, Dec 21, 1868.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—Since my last report but little of commercial importance has transpired here. On Dec 15th the U S Revenue Cutter Wyanda came to anchor for the purpose of performing the rites of burial, one of the crew having lost his life on the cruise up from San Francisco, by falling from aloft and striking his head upon the deck. On the 17th the Wyanda left for Victoria, whence after coaling, she will proceed to Sitka. On December 21st the French ship Jennie Alice arrived from San Francisco, where she has been undergoing repairs. She loads at Utsalady for Hong Kong.

The ship Great Pacific, now overdue, has not yet arrived. Some anxiety is expressed for her safety. The bark Leonore, which was waterlogged at Neah Bay, passed up in tow of the steamer Columbia on Thursday the 17th. The ship Elizabeth Kimball is still in quarantine. The cases of small pox on board are progressing favorably. Four of the five cases at Port Gamble have proved fatal. The ship David Hoadley, whence these cases originated, passed down the Straits this morning, bound for San Francisco.

Mr Thurston, one of the employes of the Port Gamble Company, who, several months since met with a compound fracture of the leg, and was brought to this place and successfully treated by Dr Calhoun, returning to the mill some three weeks since, it is reported has again broken the same limb by falling down the steps in front of his house. The poor fellow is deserving of public sympathy.

The attention of speculators is being directed to Port Townsend and vicinity as the possible if not probable termination of the railroad which is expected to be shortly constructed between Columbia River and Puget Sound. A prominent banking house in Portland has lately entered some of the vacant land in this vicinity—others, taking their cue therefrom, are following suit; and one land in this neighborhood has been gobbled up—pardon the vulgarism. O, ye Victorians, just bridge the Straits, and ere long ye shall be aroused from your morning slumbers by the snort of the iron horse as he comes to his journey's end, weary with a seven days tramp across the continent.

W. E. B.

Free Trade and Protection Again.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—The letter of your correspondent of the 18th is almost pathetic. Do, oh, do, leave us alone, he exclaims; pray let the present state of things continue. The owners of property will never for a moment sanction a real estate tax. The farmers are content with things as they are. Doubtless they are; and, with your correspondent will say—do, oh, do, leave us alone; we are doing well—the whole community, under the present system, contribute to our support—do, oh, do, leave us alone.

The lay is natural. It is scarcely to be expected that any class of men should allow a system by which they think they profit to be attacked without opposition; but it is equally natural that the consumer, who has to pay for all this agricultural contentment, should likewise wish to make himself heard; and I protest against the epithets of restless spirits, ruthless politicians, etc, so freely applied to their opponents by those whose the plaintive cry—Do, oh, do, leave us alone.

I doubt whether in the long run the present system would be advantageous even to the farmer. Doubtless at present the price of his produce is enhanced by the protective duties, and will continue to be so as long as the consumption of the towns is in excess of what the country is able to produce; but how long is such a state of things likely to continue? How long will it be before the production of the country will be in excess of the consumption of the towns? Then, where will the farmer find a market? I think that we shall then find that Free Trade, the only system, as I think, that can make Victoria a great city, will find its strongest advocate in the farmer.

FREE TRADE.

December 19th, 1868.

The Scandalous Life, Romantic Marriage, and Despairing Death of the Marquis of Hastings.

[Correspondence of the New York Times.]

LONDON, Wednesday, Nov 11, 1868.

Yesterday there died in London a nobleman of whom your readers must have read much from time to time, and whose story would prove a memorable warning, if the people ever learned wisdom from the experience of others, to young men of every rank of life. The Marquis of Hastings had made a world-wide reputation, but it was a reputation which would have broken the heart of any one who possessed acute susceptibilities on the score of honor. He was the greatest gambler in the peerage. He had won as much as £60,000 on a single race, and lost £100,000 on another. When the last Derby was contested, his fortunes were said to be dependent on the running of a mare, Lady Elizabeth. She came up to the starting post a scarecrow—poisoned and ruined, no one has ever yet found out by whom. There were some ugly scandals connected with the affair, and it was even said that the Marquis of Hastings added an additional stain to his name by the curious transactions relative to the Earl and Lady Elizabeth. Certain it is, that from that time to the present he has never held up his head. He wished to go on the Newmarket course at the last meeting, but the very men who had thrown up their hats and cheered him when he was making ducks and drakes of his fortune, sternly denied him his request. He had parted with every rood of land he ever possessed, and was heavily in debt in all directions. He had lost everything—including honor. Yesterday, when he died, he was only twenty-six. What wild pleasures and excitements, what bitter cares and disappointments, had been crowded into that brief life! Many who had seen the young Marquis driving his four in-hand, with hat stuck on one side and a gay flower in his coat, have envied him his 'brilliant career,' and what they deemed his happiness. Despair and dishonor sat by his death-bed yesterday. Who now envies the last look out upon the world, which the unhappy nobleman, heir of a line going back to the conquest, was doomed to take before the darkness closed in? *Et nos quoque tela sparsimus.* 'We too have flung our darts'—such was his family motto. They were darts of death and destruction, and returned upon the last of the race. For not only are wealth, horses, land, all gone, but the very name died out with the present Marquis. He married about four years ago, but left no children.

Of his marriage, your readers, even in rural districts, must have read something at the time it took place. It was one of the romances of the peerage which everyone would have laughed at as wildly improbable if it had been presented as one of the incidents of a novel. The daughter of the second Marquis of Anglesey, Lady Florence Paget, was a well known beauty, (she is now only twenty-eight) and neither she [illegible] style of life. She was engaged to be married in 1864 to a man well known in the racing world—Mr Chaplin. It was the very Mr Chaplin who won £100,000 from the Marquis of Hastings last year—the final blow to the Marquis' shattered fortunes. On the day before the wedding-day Lady Florence went into Swann & Edgar's dry goods warehouse in Regent street, which extends from one street to another. She entered the house at the Regent street end, and quitted it in Piccadilly, leaving her own carriage (Mr Chaplin's) on Regent street. In Piccadilly the Marquis of Hastings met her, and they went straight off and got married, leaving Mr Chaplin to meditate on the perfection of aristocratic honor at his leisure. As for the stories which have since been about the town, I pass them by. They may not have been true, and it will be far from a pleasant task to go wading among them.

After the marriage the Marquis went down hill at a faster gait than ever. Everybody but himself could see how it would end. Is it not always so when a man is hurrying to his ruin? He rushes headlong, without ears deaf to entreaty and remonstrance, and eyes closed to danger. The dead Marquis squandered a splendid inheritance in five years. His sister bought of him the reversionary interest in the ancestral estates of the family, or they, too, would have gone to the Jews and the insatiable crowd of racing men. His epitaph, as represented to the world by the *Times* this morning is as follows: 'A short five years has rendered the name of the Marquis of Hastings a by-word; has reduced the Marquis' estate to the prey of unprincipled speculators, and has consigned the Marquis himself to an untimely and unbelieved grave.' [illegible] point the moral of such a story. And yet we shall see other young men, noble or commoners, born to the inheritance of great wealth, doing precisely the same thing as this Marquis has done, and coming probably to the same end. The experience of others is ever written in vain.

[From the London Daily News, Nov. 11.]

'The earl's year' has reached a climax in the death of its leading actor. The spider and the fly drama is ended. The poor coronetted youth who had crowded into six years more Corinthian excitement and weightier turf cares, than many 'fast men' knew in a life-time, has laid down his weary load. He was only twenty-six in July, and he had frittered away two fine family estates. Betting is said to be the touchstone of the Englishman's sincerity, but with the Marquis craving for the odds had become a disease. [illegible] chance with all the [illegible] antic, his wits were, he considered, [illegible] in the betting ring at least [illegible] he sometimes [illegible] his way [illegible] the mazes of trick [illegible] public running with all the sagacity of a wizard. His public *coups* were often so brilliant that it was hardly to be wondered at that he believed in his own destiny and his power to break the ring. He cared little whether the drainage or other improvements on his Donnington estate were stopped, if he only got fresh supplies for another Newmarket campaign. The ring, on the other hand, had marked him for their own, and never left him. They would cluster beneath the Jockey Club balcony at Epsom, holding up their hands to claim his attention, and catching at his replies like a flock of hungry hawks. There he would stand smiling at the wild tumult below, wearing his hat jauntily on one side, a red flower in his button-hole, and his colors round his neck, cool and calm while the 'talent' made his horse a 'hot favorite' at once, and a few slipped back to the ring to follow his lead. For a time he was a perfect Cocker; but he fell at last in the unequal strife, and the men who had drawn him most copiously were among those who set their face most [illegible] against him when he wished to see the Heath once again.

ANTI-DIVORCE, is the name of the newest style, Gents' Neck Tie; these together with a Large Stock of Winter Clothing, Beaver Suits, Pants, Hats, Caps, Shaker and Oregon Underclothing, BOYS' SUITS, Shirts, Socks, &c., have just been opened out at ADAMS & BEAVEN'S New Clothing Store, Government street, which they are selling cheap as usual. *

WE direct the attention of the public to the excellent and varied stock of home-made CANDIES for the Holidays at PIPER'S STORE, Government street. The principal difference between these candies and those imported is their entire freedom from the pernicious ingredients and colorings so injurious to children, which the latter often contain. *

HAVE you seen the beautiful displayed Evening Costumes for the coming festivities and the Elegant Fancy Goods for Christmas Presents, at London House, Government street? *