

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, April 25, 1865.

THE COWICHAN PETITION.

In another column will be found a petition to His Excellency Governor Kennedy from the settlers of Cowichan, in reference to the Indian question, which is just now forcing itself rather disagreeably on the minds of the inhabitants of that portion of the Island. The petition states that faith has been broken with the Indians by the Government, that the native tribes are every day in consequence becoming more and more hostile in their attitude toward the whites, and that serious difficulties are anticipated the present year, from the destruction of the Indians' potato crops by the settlers' hogs. There is nothing new in all this to the readers of the Colonist. We have reiterated the same things over and over again; but there is additional weight given to the matter by the unanimous opinion of the principal parties concerned—the settlers of Cowichan. When we say the subject of this petition is a grave one, and demands the immediate attention of the Government, we think we are by no means overrating its importance. It was just by such acts of bad faith and by such indefinite postponements of the settlement of the native claims, that war was brought about in New Zealand, and the Home Government as well as the people of that colony plunged into an expenditure that would have covered the original demand a thousand times. We want to hear of no more Indian massacres. Bute Inlet has shown us how quickly money can be absorbed and how little purpose, in suppressing native hostilities, they never so insignificant. It is our policy, therefore, as well as our duty to see that the Indians have no just claims against us. But independent of the Indian side of the question, there is another and vitally important subject in connection with the matter, which forces itself on our attention—we mean the prosperity of the agricultural districts. Above all things that are likely to retard the growth of any young outlying settlement, is the probability of Indian disturbances. The farmer's occupation in a new country is surrounded by sufficient natural difficulties without the ones being thrown upon him of being ready at all times to protect his life and property from Indian aggression. So soon as any well-grounded fears of the natives are entertained by the settlers of any of our agricultural districts, that minute a blight comes over the settlement; for if a man, sterner fighting nature to get his crop in the ground, has to fight the Indians afterwards to retain it, we think he will look upon the bargain as rather an objectionable one, and the enterprise as an unprofitable investment.

The petition, therefore, of the settlers to have the Indian title quieted is only reasonable and just, and we hope measures will be taken to carry out this portion of the prayer at once. The suggestions made by the petitioners in reference to obtaining the necessary funds for settling the claims cannot, we think, be seriously objected to. It is shown that 3,500 acres of the best land on the Island are in the hands of the Indians, who only manage to cultivate about fifty acres; and it is also declared that if 3,000 of these acres were put up at auction in fifty-acre lots, under condition of actual settlement, a sufficient sum would be obtained to answer every purpose in connection with the government of the Indian tribes. So far we see no difficulty in the matter—when, however, the suggestion is proposed that a balance of 500 acres should be fenced and given to the natives of Cowichan, we are scarcely disposed to agree with the petitioners. If we are to have flourishing white settlements we must get rid of the natives in the vicinity. We cannot have the two races growing up together, imparting to each other all their respective vices, without retrogression. Any scheme, therefore, that would leave the Indian population in its present proximity to the whites would be only "scotching the snake, not killing it." The evil in all its deformity would still meet our eye, and although the principal cause of disturbance—the settlement of the Indian claims—might be removed, yet the presence of intoxicating drinks would always make the natives neighbors of a disagreeable character. Land put up for sale on the condition that the Indians would be removed would fetch half as much again as land put up under present arrangements. There are plenty of Islands lying off the coast on which the natives might be easily induced to settle, and on which they could be turned to a great deal more profitable account to themselves and us than they are at present. This part of the question, however, trenches on an Indian policy which we are afraid is not likely to be carried out until the people have full control of the Crown Lands.

CANADIANS IN THE FEDERAL ARMY.—A Lower Canada journal, Le Courrier de St. Hyacinthe, states that 43,000 Canadians have enlisted in the American armies since the beginning of the war. Of this number, 35,000 were French Canadians, no less than 14,000 of whom have died on the battlefield.

LETTER FROM CARIBOO.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Williams' Creek March 29, 1865.

The spring has come at last! Yesterday, for the first time, we experienced a regular thaw, with a strong south-west breeze—a good omen for the speedy dissipation of all wintery indications. The season has been a long and tedious one in the mountains of Cariboo, yet very mild, generally speaking, up to the 26th of February, when the cold became more intense than ever experienced here. The thermometer lowered to 42° below zero, if we can rely on the instruments we have here. The severe weather has had the effect of depriving us of all communication for five weeks. Very little of interest has occurred on the creek all through the winter; things have been pretty much the same as last year, with perhaps increased dullness in business of every kind. I should not avail myself of your readiness to publish everything of public interest, if I had not some local news to relate that may be later than your numerous readers. I will start from the 20th of February, the period from which your last advices probably bore date.

SANITARY.

The public health has been, and continues to be, excellent. The sad death of Mrs. Winnard, on the 26th February, which cast a gloom over the community has been in some measure counterbalanced by a birth, which took place on the 16th inst., on which happy occasion Mrs. Martin presented her husband with a little girl. The first, I believe, of her sex born in Cariboo.

MINING NEWS.

Works have gone on, been left, resumed, and left again, in consequence of the great variation in the weather. Prospects have been obtained in many places, but no excitement created, if we except that at the head of Lowhee; but the new diggings, reported so rich, were soon tested, and the triumph of the would-be discoverer but of short duration. Among the old claims on this creek the Nevada has shown as a new star. They have struck very rich dirt, and a new channel, which, passing at the back of the Never Sweat, crosses all the different claims located in the direction of the Forest Rose. The New Australia also reports paying dirt; this is the first claim on that side of the creek apparently worth something has been done at Lowhee; Lightning, Grouse, and Antler Creeks, but I have not heard of any results. Peterbon Creek many other little creeks in the immediate vicinity of Lightning and Van Winkle, and although in many places they appear sanguine in their expectations, I should not venture to say that they will be favored. Canningham seems to be the favorite creek for this year. A man coming from Keithley reports very favorably, and there is nothing to throw doubt upon his veracity; but after all, up to this time, they are not shown to be very rich diggings.

The bed rock flame at Antler has progressed quite satisfactorily. So also the Williams Creek bed rock flame. Unluckily in the latter they have had and still have to struggle against very great difficulties, from 7 to 9 feet of solid rock to blast. I believe Mr. Editor that the completion of this all important work will be hailed with enthusiasm by all true Caribooites; for on it depends in a great measure the future development of our resources.

The bed rock drain tunnel has been also pushed forward with vigor. Different branches have been constructed and now it extends above the Lillooet claim.

IMPROVEMENTS.

At Richfield and Barkerville improvements have been made to a great extent; the most important being the "Paris and London Hotel." Although this hotel was previously a comfortable house of resort for travellers and the inhabitants of Williams Creek, recent improvements have rendered it much more spacious and accommodating; and as it now stands I consider it inferior to none other in the colony. Cameron town is deeply embedded in ice and snow, most of the houses are literally half buried and it is incredible what an amount of labor has been expended throughout the winter to render them habitable.

MONOPOLY AND SPECULATORS.

Jam majora canimus, after considering our health, works and expectations, let us Mr. Editor, with your leave, glance at another topic of prominent importance—a subject which with good reason disquiets our community and causes considerable anxiety since none can devise a remedy for the evil, that has belated us, and instead of a hopeful feeling being engendered, as the spring season advances is causing a spirit of gloom to pervade the minds of all. The severe weather as I have already stated, left us for five long weeks without news of any sort from below, and although our worthy good expression man faithfully and nobly discharged his duties to the community, many were inclined to inculpate him in the iniquitous speculation of which we are the victims and some even went so far as to insinuate that the Express man had been paid not to come here so as to allow four or five worthless time to work out their base designs. Mining populations deal quickly and sometimes harshly in suppositions, especially when they are made to suffer without means of redress, but they are equally ready to reverse their accusations and accord justice when the truth has dispelled their misgivings. The fact is this Mr. Pool left Richfield on the 20th February with \$120,000 in gold dust for the Bank of British Columbia. The weather was such as every one knows, that the most strenuous efforts were needed to accomplish the hard task; four days afterwards E. came in with an Italian, being aware of the new tariff imposed by the Legislature, E. ordered his clerk to keep all the flour they had on hand, and even to decline the delivery of 1000 pounds sold on the eve of his arrival to a commercial house at Richfield. So positive were his orders that the clerk refused to deliver the flour, although the cash was tendered on the spot, and the buyers thought it advisable to submit rather than commence an action for redress which could not be decided for a long time. Not satisfied with this one breach of contract committed through his agent, E. communicated with F. of Cameron town and S. and O. of Barkerville, making them aware of the new tariff. Shortly after the 29th, a merchant ar-

rived at Richfield bearing an Extra of the N. P. Times containing the new duties in toto, which had been forwarded by Mr. S. Elzasser to his clerk in Cameron town, but this honest merchant did not judge fit to deliver the extra on his arrival, and kept it for something like forty hours, after which Mr. Elzasser received the instructions of Mr. Elzasser. Good use, however, had been made of those forty hours, nothing being known or suspected. Small dealers were visited by five high toned gentlemen, flour was bought up at 34c@35c, and cigars, sugar, champagne, playing cards, gum boots and numerous other articles monopolised and not satisfied with the razzia they had made in Williams' Creek, O. and F. immediately started below, buying up all the flour in the market as far as Lillooet, visiting all the stores, not even neglecting the cabin of any poor fellow who was supposed to have flour in sufficient quantity to answer their purpose. They chartered all the available sleighs and pack-trains to make sure that nothing could enter Cariboo. F. is said to have arranged the plans of this holy confederation with much adroitness, and to be deserving of the highest praise at the hands of his four associates. No doubt such a meritorious act will be gratefully acknowledged by the public, who are deprived of breadstuffs and other indispensable articles; for of course these good men abstain from selling until all petty stores are drained out, when they will begin to reap the benefit of their generous and praiseworthy conduct, smiling no doubt in the interim at the prospect of having an entire community begging for their daily bread. You will suppose that these worthies must be very wealthy—Jesuitas Anglias! to monopolise the provisions, &c., necessary to maintain a population of 2,500 men for three months at least (as it is not probable that pack-trains will be able to enter before the 1st of June) but nothing of the sort. By giving security on the goods purchased they have obtained money from the Bank of British Columbia. An advance of fifteen dollars per 100 lbs of flour, and so on, and thus have they been enabled to concentrate in their own hands goods, which bought at reasonable prices are advancing daily. Two weeks at the most have sufficed to bring the harvest. All honest merchants—Elzasser at their head—have continued to sell their provisions at a reasonable price—36c. for flour, and so on; but their stocks are now exhausted, and they have not even sufficient for their own use. Flour goes up with each rising sun. Today it is at 80c., and our petty seigneurs promise to put it up to \$1 a pound on the 1st of April! Comme il sera joli le poisson d'Avril! Thus it is, Mr. Editor, that we feel disquieted and the future looks gloomy. The spring will be very backward, and what makes matters worse provisions are scarce and dear. I can now understand better why the laws are so severe against speculators in every well-regulated country. We hear of nothing now but indignation meetings. Next Sunday, I see by the different notices, that a general meeting will be called to pass resolutions to meet the circumstances.

"We have been a little while without fresh meat." To-day we received fifteen head of cattle belonging to Mr. James Selzer and W. English. We expect also to see O. Taff this week with a fresh supply; this will be the sixth time that he will have furnished the market. The butchers here have had more than one good chance of raising their prices but to their credit be it said they would not do it.

I would earnestly advise the miners not to come up too early this season. If they reach this by the first of June they will be soon enough; they will save themselves from great misery, and I will tell them honestly that they are not sure to find work before that time; besides provisions will most likely be then resuming their normal prices.

MARKET PRICES.

Flour, 90c; butter, 23; sugar, \$1; bacon, 80c; fresh meat, 40; candles, \$1 50; coffee, \$1 50; tea, \$2 25; salt, 50c; fresh vegetables, 50c.

THE ONE-LEGGED OBJECTS TO "DRESS."

Donato, the famous one-legged dancer, has cancelled his engagement with the proprietors of the Alcazar, because he would have been obliged to appear in plain evening dress, the authorities in Paris not allowing a performer to figure in costumes at a cafe chantant. Dancing in public on one leg in the evening dress of private life, would certainly be a difficult undertaking, and one is not surprised that Donato should shrink from such an ordeal before a Parisian audience.

NEW STAGE DIABLERIE.—A new sensation in theatricals—something in the ghost style, only more so—is about to be introduced in New York. The novelty comes from London, and is said to be a something which renders an actor visible or invisible at will, before an audience, and not only renders him invisible, but enables another actor to invisibly take his place and become visible as his substitute. It is being employed in London at present, with great success, especially in pantomime.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH.—The International Telegraph Company requiring the services of a larger vessel than the Shubrick, the U. S. gunboat Saginaw will probably replace her, unless the company, as is contemplated, purchase a larger craft for their own use. The vessel secured will return here in about ten days. The two vessels en route here from New York with material for the Company are now fully due and may be looked for daily.

ESCAPE OF BROOKIE JACK.—The notorious highwayman Malignan, alias "Brookie Jack," has made his escape from the officers at King's, sixteen miles below Lewiston, says the Mountaineer of yesterday, and up to the present time no traces of him have been found. The particulars of his escape are not given, but it is very easy to suppose that such an event, with such a desperado, is the result of culpable neglect.—Oregonian.

THE CROWN LANDS.

PETITION FROM COWICHAN.

The following is a copy of the petition sent in to His Excellency the Governor yesterday:

To His Excellency Governor Kennedy, O. B. The humble petition of the undersigned residents in Cowichan Valley

SHEWETH:

- 1. That your Petitioners view with deep concern the position of the Indian question in this valley. This concern is based on the following grounds: (a) No compensation has ever been given to these natives for the lands now occupied by the whites. (b) Repeated promises of a satisfactory arrangement have been made and not performed. (c) They therefore smart under a sense of wrong and have lost to a large extent that respect for the whites which justice and truth always engender in the savage mind. (d) They suffer positive and serious evil by the presence and proximity of the whites. Intoxicating liquor, a sure attendant upon the advancement of civilization, is consumed by them in large quantities to their manifest detriment, and their potato crops are annually destroyed by the cattle and pigs of the settlers. Therefore, 2. That this question urgently demands immediate settlement. 3. That in the opinion of your petitioners the Indian Reserves which amount to three thousand five hundred acres, would, if wisely dealt with, yield a sufficient sum to quiet the Indian titles and provide for their general improvement and good government. 4. That the Indians though distributed among five villages do not cultivate more than fifty acres altogether. 5. That therefore the present Reserves are vastly larger than necessary, and are held back from settlement to the evident loss of the Government, the injury of the Colony, and without benefit to the Indian. 6. Your petitioners humbly pray that a sufficient portion, say five hundred acres, be set apart and fenced off for the Indians, and the remainder sold by auction in lots of fifty or one hundred acres, on condition of actual residence. 7. The advantages of this arrangement your petitioners humbly represent are many. (a) Funds would thus immediately be provided for the settlement of the Indian titles. (b) All reasonable ground of complaint would be forever removed from the natives. (c) The present imminent danger of hostile action would be done away. (d) A flourishing agricultural district would be built up, capable in a short time of supplying the Victoria market with hay, grain and roots, and of contributing in an appreciable degree to the increase of the general revenue. (e) A flourishing agricultural district would be built up, capable in a short time of supplying the Victoria market with hay, grain and roots, and of contributing in an appreciable degree to the increase of the general revenue. (f) May it please your Excellency favorably to entertain these views, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

British Columbia.

The steamer Enterprise arrived Wednesday morning from New Westminster bringing a few passengers. She sustained some injury by striking a rock near Plumper Pass. The steamer Calcedonia arrived yesterday afternoon with six passengers.

DEPARTURE OF THE EXPLORATION EXPEDITION.—The Reliance carried off Mr. Orr and party on Saturday. As we intimated some time ago, Mr. Orr, with a party of ten picked men, goes out for the purpose of exploring the country north and east of the Bay of Columbia River and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The public will await with deep interest the result of this expedition, which will doubtless be made known from time to time through the regular official channels. We understand that members of the party will not be at liberty to correspond with newspapers, or otherwise become the medium of giving publicity to the proceedings of the expedition. This is, we are disposed to think wise policy, and may prevent the circulation of conflicting and unreliable statements.

THE LILLOOET ROAD ORN.—The Express which came down on Friday night by the Reliance brought a letter to the Government from Mr. Spence, Superintendent of the above road, announcing that it would be open for wagon traffic on Saturday. Mr. Spence says that the Government, has displayed very great and praiseworthy vigor in opening the road in question. As many as 190 men have been at work upon it; but Mr. Spence states the intention of the Government, was to open it on Saturday. It has doubtless cost a good many dollars; but it would be difficult to estimate the importance of the work in the present condition of the country, and after so protracted a winter as that through which we have just passed.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS for week ending Saturday 16th April, 1865, \$23,445.

THE RELIANCE.—The steamer Reliance left on Saturday with thirty to thirty-five tons of freight and about one hundred passengers. Amongst the passengers we noticed Mr. Townsend and Mr. Orr—the former going up to the Mouth of Queenoche as Manager of the Bank of British Columbia, and the latter with the Exploring Expedition.—N. P. Times.

OP! OP! AND AWAY.—We gather from a correspondent at Olympia, W. T., that the steamer Jenny Jones had again eluded the vigilance of the law officers on that side of the water. The vessel we learn was to be sold by the U. S. Marshal at Seattle on Saturday last, in satisfaction of a judgment obtained at Port Townsend, and left Olympia for that purpose on Thursday evening with the Marshal on board. She stopped at Stellacoom, when the Marshal, Mr. Huntington, went ashore to remain until the tide served. Early in the morning the Deputy Marshal was sent to the hotel to call his superior officer, and during his absence the steamer took French leave and started down Sound. The Marshal returned to Olympia, and on Friday the Anderson was despatched in pursuit. It was rumored in the meantime that a schooner was waiting for her with a supply of coal, and if she succeeded in getting that she would leave for Mexico or elsewhere. The Anderson returned on Saturday evening, having been down to Port Townsend where she ascertained that the Welsh maid had taken flight about an hour or so after night was very dark and a heavy south easterly wind blowing. The Anderson subsequently did not go out but returned to Olympia, Captain Jones applied his vessel, with fuel at Port Ludlow. His family remain at Olympia. The Jenny Jones we learned yesterday had reached Nainaimo.

EUROPEAN.

New York, April 7.—The China from Liverpool the 25th and Queenstown the 26th has arrived.

In the House of Lords, Russell laid on the table a notification from Minister Adams of the intention of the American Government to terminate the reciprocity treaty and the convention relating to the armed force on the lakes. He admitted that the acts committed on the lakes wholly justified the American Government in the steps taken. The reciprocity treaty he trusted might be renewed with certain modifications. He also hoped that arrangements might be made for a limited armament for police service on the lakes. He trusted the present pacific relations between the two governments might continue, and hoped nothing would be done in England to interrupt them. He regretted that speeches had been made in the House of Commons calculated to excite unfavorable feeling in America, and concluded by declaring England had not acted wrongfully in any way towards America. After reiterating his hopes for continued peace he said: Sir Frederick Bruce, the new Minister, would sail on Saturday, and he believed the dignity and honor of the country would be safe in his hands.

In the House of Commons, the Marquis of Hardington moved that the vote for fortifications include £5,000 as part of the £20,000 required for Quebec.

A long debate ensued. Hardington explained that the total estimate for the Quebec fortifications was £20,000. It was necessary now that the United States had become a great military power, to place Canada in a state of defence, although the Government had not the slightest expectation that the United States contemplated an attack.

Bentick objected to the motion, and moved the omission of the item for Quebec from the estimates.

The merits of the question were debated by Peel, Adderly, Disraeli, Lord Bury and others who supported the Government.

Bright and Lowe were the principal speakers against.

Palmerston did not think that there was any danger of war with America. They were friendly, and the Government only proceeded according to the practice of all countries.

The amendment was rejected by 235 majority.

Continental political news was not important.

LONDON, March 26.—Paris advices state that the ram Stonewall quitted Ferrol, Madeira, March 21st, accompanied to sea by a Spanish frigate.

The Niagara and Sacramento followed immediately. The expectation of a fight caused great excitement with the Spanish population, but the Stonewall apparently took no chance for an escape and returned to port.

It is stated on good authority that the rebel protest drafts will be paid to-morrow.

OREGON NEWS.

[From the Oregonian of the 14th.]

Great rejoicings took place in Portland on the 12th in celebration of the recent successes and the approach of peace.

Beale and Baker, convicted of the murder of old man Delaney, have made a confession that they killed the old man and carried off a great deal of money. Great excitement existed at Salem, and many stories were around at the time when the news was telegraphed to us, we have no further particulars.

A little daughter of Captain John Kerns, living in East Portland, met with a very serious accident, by falling through the plank of the bridge leading south from the Base Line road.

On Sunday, says the Dalles Mountaineer, the body of a man was taken out of the water near the steamboat landing at that place. The body showed three or four gunshot wounds and half-a-dozen knife wounds, besides having been scalped. Some identified the body as that of an Indian called "Cultus Joe" who disappeared from Tam-

THE PACIFIC AND THE SINGING CHAIR.

In the case of the United States vs. the steamer Pacific—seizure, for violation of the revenue laws, in unloading four trunks of opium in the night time, without a permit, the same not being on the ships' manifests, the owners of the vessel, the California Steam Navigation Company, filed a petition in Court admitting the cause of forfeiture as alleged in the libel, and pray that the Judge will make an inquiry into the facts and circumstances connected with the forfeiture, and cause them to be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, to the end that he might mitigate or remit the forfeiture upon such terms and conditions as may be just and proper, if it shall appear to the Secretary that the same was incurred without wilful negligence or intention to commit fraud.

Munday last was occupied in hearing the testimony on the petition. At the same time the evidence was taken upon the charge against Albert Dyer the freight clerk, and Melville Erskine the first mate of the Pacific, that they had smuggled or clandestinely introduced these four trunks of opium into the United States. On yesterday morning the matter as to Dyer and Erskine was argued, and the Judge finding that the offence had been committed, and that there was probable cause to believe these parties guilty of its commission, ordered them committed to await the action of the grand jury, at the next term of Court, the first Monday in July, and fixed their bail at \$5,000 each. The penalty for the offence is a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both. The District Attorney has also brought a civil action against A. M. Burns, the Master of the Pacific, to recover a penalty equal to the alleged value of the smuggled opium, \$10,000, for not having the same upon his manifest. We understand that on Saturday morning next, counsel will submit arguments upon the testimony in relation to the forfeiture of the ship.

A French paper states that "a great English countess, whose name will very shortly be before the Divorce Court, has arrived at Paris, having eloped with her coachman."

Advertisement for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, including text like 'Kidney Pills', 'Coughs and Colds', 'Dyspepsia', 'Constipation', 'Headache', 'Nervousness', 'Anemia', 'Weakness', 'Loss of Appetite', 'Headache', 'Nervousness', 'Anemia', 'Weakness', 'Loss of Appetite', 'Headache', 'Nervousness', 'Anemia', 'Weakness', 'Loss of Appetite'.

Advertisement for 'The Weekly Colonist' newspaper, including subscription rates and contact information for the publisher.

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