

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, September 21, 1870.

Agriculture.

The science of Agriculture—for Agriculture has long since assumed the rank and dignity of a science—has, with few exceptions, been most lamentably neglected in this Colony. When we consider the extreme fertility and richness of many extensive tracts of land, even within the easy reach of Victoria, it appears almost like a sinful neglect of the bounties which Providence has placed within our reach, that so few attempts have been made to turn them to the best advantage. Certainly the perniciosa policy pursued on this Island, in dealing with the public lands and the dearth of labour, have contributed much to check the progress of Agricultural development. Up to the present time, the state of the labor market has been, and still is, the most serious impediment in the way of progress in this most important of all industries; and, although a necessarily limited scheme for assisting farm labourers to come out from England is now presented to most farmers, and ought to our necessities the well-to-do amongst them still it must, in a great measure, be left to time, and those larger changes to equalize the price and value of labor in this Colony. The student of Colonial history will find nothing new in all this; and especially will he find a counterpart to our own history in that of other gold-producing countries. To those who have forsaken comfortable homes and excitedly rushed to new and distant parts in search of gold, the plodding, precise occupation of husbandry presents, perhaps, the least attractions. By the masses the most menial and dependent occupations have been preferred. And we see the unhappy results in this Colony, and more especially in this part of it. The Customs Returns tell us that the people inhabiting the lower country alone consume every year nearly half a million dollars worth of foreign produce which could and should be grown upon our own soil! The Government steamer is still carrying Oregon and California flour to our so-called Agricultural settlements. Nay, this very week it has been seen to carry hay to one of these settlements! To the eastward of the Cascade Range matters are far otherwise; but the difference may be chiefly attributed to natural conditions. There nature arbitrarily insisted upon the people being supplied from the rich valley and table lands of the interior. In the lower country an attempt was made to force Agricultural development by erecting an artificial wall of protection; but with what success the Customs Returns too plainly indicate. We have said Agriculture has long since assumed the rank and dignity of a science. It is problematical how far that is true as applied to British Columbia. It is to be feared that farming is, for the most part, not carried on in a very scientific way here. Indeed in many instances there is observable a degree of slovenliness and thoughtless indifference most painful to behold and most fatal to success. To elevate, improve and expand this industry, which may be said to lie at the root, which is, in truth, the support of assured wellbeing, ought certainly to be the earnest aim of all good citizens. Hence it is that we, with so much confidence, urge upon the public the claims of the Agricultural Society, now about to hold its annual Exhibition. The grand object and the sure tendency of such organized effort is to elevate and improve the science of Agriculture. No better means of attaining that truly desirable object has yet been discovered in the oldest and most experienced communities; and there would appear to be no reason for thinking that a means which has attained such marvellous and happy results in other lands will fail of success here. We know there is a tendency in too many minds to despise the day of small things, and regard with ill concealed contempt efforts which, when compared with kindred efforts in England and elsewhere, must look puny and ineffective indeed. But it should be remembered that if everything else were subjected to a similar test the result would not be essentially different. 'Rome was not built in a day.' Time was when, even in England, Agricultural Societies were as crude and feeble as they are here; and the man who despises and turns away from first efforts here because it looks foolish and hopeless alongside of 'matured' effort in old countries is unfit to be a colonist—unworthy to share the honor of laying the foundations of future Empire. It is, therefore, the bounden duty, as it is the interest and the honor of every class in this community to give a helping hand, and give it cheerfully, to the great work of placing Agriculture in its true position in British Columbia. It is the duty and it ought to be the pleasure

of the Queen's Representative in this colony to aid and encourage the movement by his money and his countenance and example. It is the duty and it ought to be the pleasure of the highest lady in the land to also help the good work forward by, in some marked way, bestowing upon it the favor of her patronage. It is the duty, rather let us say, the privilege of all, whatever may be their sphere, to assist in a movement which aims at the common good. But it is to the farmers themselves that we would especially appeal in this behalf. Although all are interested in the movement, they have an especial interest. Although all have a duty to perform in this matter, of the farmer is that duty doubly binding. It would, indeed, ill become the farmers to look with cold indifference upon such a movement. There is not a farmer west of the Cascade Range who should not be a subscribing member of the Society and a competitor at its Exhibitions. And here we hope to be excused for using great plainness of speech. In many instances, we regret to say, the farmers have displayed shameful, culpable indifference. After all the trouble and expense of getting up an Exhibition has been voluntarily incurred by persons less to be benefited than themselves, the farmers have in too many instances refused to take the trouble of sending articles to the Show, although free transit had been provided. Inexplicable indifference! Intolerable stupidity! 'The prizes are too small,' they tell us. Whose fault is that? They would be larger if all would do their part. 'I have nothing worth exhibiting,' they will say. Let everybody say that, and it is clear nothing will be exhibited. 'Oh! I have far better than that at home,' is the common exclamation of many, upon examining the various specimens on exhibition. The more shame to you, if you have it 'at home.' Pray, why didn't you bring it with you, and afford others an opportunity of seeing and judging of its comparative excellence? We appeal to the patriotism, the common sense, nay, even to the selfishness of the farmers, and ask them whether it is right or prudent thus to treat a movement which, while it aims at general well-being, has their particular interests especially at heart. In no other way can the farmers as a class make their importance and their interests more fully felt, and recognized than by coming up in all their might to these annual gatherings. Talk about the agricultural interests being overlooked in our legislation! How is it to be known that we have any farmers if these annual so-called agricultural gatherings are almost entirely composed of townsfolk? If, peradventure, we have farmers, let them come out and show themselves and the usual evidences that they are in reality farmers, at least once in the year; let them compete at the Exhibitions, speak at the dinners, and dance at the balls. Let them make themselves seen, heard and felt at these annual gatherings.

How THE NEWS OF THE SURRENDER WAS RECEIVED AT BRANIN.—Dispatches from Berlin, in my rejoicings over the reception of the glorious news from Sedan baffle all description. It was known at 8 o'clock in the morning. The whole population poured into the streets and rushed to the palace of the Queen. In a very few minutes the Queen was out on the balcony, dressed in a plain mourning wrapper, weeping with joy, as she received the cheering cheers of the multitude. Hundreds of women were down on their knees, with streaming eyes, thanking God for the apparent approach of the close of the terrible war. Schools closed and processions of children formed in all quarters. Great crowds of people, with banners and flags, climbed the statue of Frederick the Great, crowning it with wreaths and flags. An impromptu procession of citizens was gotten up, which marched through the streets with banners and music. All financial circles shared in the exultation, which was shown by the buoyancy of the markets. People gladly welcome peace on the most generous terms, consistent with perfect security against future wars.

CONFIRMED.—A few days ago we alluded to the reported discovery of a quartz ledge, less than one hundred miles from New Westminster, and net twelve miles from the Fraser, assaying over \$700 to the ton. News received yesterday confirms the report. The ledge is about 50 miles above New Westminster, and net more than three from the river. This is likely to prove one of the most important discoveries yet made.

London, Ontario, and the surrounding country were visited by a very heavy rain storm on the night of the 23d. The River Thames rose ten feet in a few hours, overflowing its banks in some places and doing considerable damage. At Ingersoll, Woodstock, and St. Mary's much damage was occasioned by the freshet.

It was rumored that the visit of Sir John A. Macdonald had won Prince Edward Island over to Confederation. On the 24th the corner-stone of the new Wesleyan Methodist Church, being erected on McGill square, Toronto, was laid by the Rev. E. Byerson, D.D., L.L.D. The ceremony appears to have been one of a more than ordinarily imposing character, an account thereof occupying nearly four columns in the principal local paper. The edifice is to cost upwards of \$70,000. Lord Campbell, a son of the Duke of Argyll, was at Quebec. Colonel Powell left Ottawa for England on the 25th, for the purpose of looking after the new uniforms for the Canadian volunteers. Mr. A. Waddington left Ottawa on the 27th to go West. He intended visiting Lake Nipigon with a view to making some explorations in reference to the Canadian Pacific Railway. On the 20th the boiler of Kirk's steam sawmill, St. John, N.B., exploded, killing two persons and severely injuring others. Fortunately most of the hands were at breakfast at the time. The annual council of the Hudson Bay Company was held at Norway House, in July, Donald A. Smith presiding. The usual number of Chief Factors and Traders were present. The private affairs of the fur trade having been disposed of, the following changes among the officers were made: Wm. McKay to be in charge of Swan River District vice Robert Campbell while on furlough. Robert Hamilton in charge Norway House vice James Stewart on furlough. J. H. McTavish in charge of Red River vice William Cowan on furlough. B. R. Ross in charge of Lac la Pline, vice Thomas Taylor on furlough. H. Belanger in charge of Cumberland House, vice Robert Hamilton. During Mr. J. H. McTavish's charge of Red River, Mr. Balaille will act as Chief Accountant. The Council adjourned on the 23d alt till the following year.

Neutrality Laws. As the neutrality laws of Great Britain stand, or hitherto stood, the Government had no power to interfere with the building of a ship of war for a belligerent Power. Her equipment and dispatch alone constituted an infringement of the law, alone constituting an offence of which the Executive could take cognizance, or in respect of which they could interpose any check. The utter futility of such a provision must be sufficiently manifest. An Alabama may be constructed in every ship-yard in the United Kingdom,—on the Thames or the Tyne, the Mersey or the Clyde, with special knowledge of her warlike intent and destination. Her every line may be laid with special regard to speed and fitness for her predatory work upon the high seas; she may be built to carry a certain number of guns of a particular calibre, and to outrange and outstrip her rival of the opposing fleet. All this may be known to the authorities, to the public of Great Britain, to the world, just as well as if the ship had already sailed and engaged in her work of destruction; but unless the equipment of the vessel has actually commenced, unless the guns and other warlike appliances are being placed in position, or she can be caught on the wing, as it were, the authorities have no power or right whatever to interpose, the State cannot adopt either preventive or punitive measures. Thus it was that the Alabama made good her escape at a most critical and unfortunate moment; and thus it was that the Court of Exchequer refused to support the action of the Government in ordering the arrest of the Alexandra. Notwithstanding the by no means unnatural outcry made against Great Britain by our Cousins over the line, for not having interfered to stop the Alabama while yet she was within the easy grasp of the authorities, the question arises: Would the United States have acted otherwise, had the case been their own? The United States Marshal might have been more expert in arresting the progress of the evil bird on the wing; but that their own laws would not have permitted them to interfere one moment earlier is undeniable. In this respect their laws are no better than those of Great Britain. It is quite natural that the people of the United States should have felt hurt about the escape of the Alabama; but they have had time to cool down, and they ought to reflect, and remember that had the war been one to which our own nation was a party, and they, themselves, neutral, and had the Alabama been built with like intent in their own ship-yard, their own course of action could not have been essentially different, although it might possibly have been rather more successful. Indeed the Fenian movement furnishes a case in point. Taking the Fenian army to represent the Alabama, why did not the United States authorities interfere before the Fenians marched over the border? That army was recruited, drilled, armed and equipped openly and in broad day, under the very nose of the Government, and with the open and express object of infringing international law; with this avowed intent they passed through the country and were marched to the border; and it was not till they had invaded the territory of a peaceful and unoffending neighbor and were driven back by its brave sons that the United States authorities interposed. And why? Simply because they had to abide the breach of international law, which appears not to have been in the recruiting, drilling, arming, and equipping, or even in a march across the border, but in an overt act of violence. All this was very trying and very expensive to Canada, equally as much so, comparatively speaking, as the Alabama affair proved to the larger country; yet we are told the authorities acted up to the law. Well, so did the authorities of Great Britain. But the law, in both, is defective, vicious in its operations and consequences. Under it the Alabama was enabled to escape and do so much mischief—destroy an enormous amount of property, and make no end of mischief between two Great Powers which, of all the Powers on earth, ought to live at peace. Under it the Fenians have twice escaped into Canada, only, however, to retreat in greater haste than they advanced, but still to do very great mischief and put an inoffensive neighbor to very heavy expense in guarding its frontier. In so far as the neutrality relations of Great Britain and the United States are concerned neither would appear to have much reason to upraid the other. But

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To the Electors of the Clinton Lillooet District.

- 1st. Loyalty to throne and ag, the rallying points of the nation.
2nd. Integrity and consolidation of the British Empire.
3rd. Confederation with the Dominion. Union is strength it implies mutual advantages.
4th. Hon. DeCosmos Terms; to this end.
5th. Canadian Tariff; to this end.
6th. Property Tax. If ever wars are to have a buoyant revenue, a flourishing community, wealth here as in England must bear the brunt of taxation.
7th. Improved communications. The Eagle Pass opened. Hope and Kootenay, Lyton and Lillooet, the trunk line and Fraser River settlement, Yale and New Westminster joined by wagon roads and good trails. These rather than Custom Dues are the protection we need.
8th. Abolition of Road Tolls on all Colonial produce, raw or manufactured. Tolls on flour, bran, flaxseed, hides &c., are a hardship to the farmer, a stumbling-block to the capitalist, and an injury to the Colony. This carried, farmers will benefit by.
9th. Free Ports and Free Trade. The consequent increase of population and capital at our political, commercial and trading centres will but improve our markets.
10th. Honorary Justices of the Peace, a legal necessity, a social improvement, a check to litigation, and a status for farmers.
11th. Free grants of land to intending settlers, with a Loan Fund for irrigation canals &c., premium to population, progress and development.
12th. An Indian Policy, objectively to civilize and utilize our Indian fellow subjects (Indian apprenticeship, industrial schools, &c.)
13th. Increased salaries and examination test for our civil service. It is as hopeless as it is unjust to expect high efficiency from underpaid officials. The highest wage ensures the best work.
14th. Last, though not least, Responsible Government, a right not a boon, previous to not after admission. Any less is to sacrifice our self-respect as a British community.
I do not hope to see these our wants readily supplied; but it is well that we review and discuss them. Without it we can have no public opinion, no clear line of policy, no definite legislation.
Gentlemen, come to the polls, show that you prize your privileges, that you value your rights, that you are mindful of your political status. By thus actively participating in the election you will morally strengthen your Representative whoever he may be, and you will contribute the opinion in high quarters that you are unfit for or indifferent to political emancipation.
I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant, W. H. KAY, col344w.

Information Wanted

OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF B. KARR, 19 years old, has lost a joint of the right fore leg, has black eyes and is tall and stout for his age. Last heard from at Victoria on the 12th April last, when he was bound for the Peace River. Minns. Address: 371244w WELLS, FARGO & CO'S, Office, Yates Street

Victoria Brewery, GOVERNMENT STREET NEAR DISCOVERY

LAGER BEER IN CASES, KEGS AND BOTTLERS. Families supplied at Shortest Notice. All orders left at Willson & Rickman's, Fort street; Bank Exchange, Yates street; and at Toulson's Hall, Government street, 7 at the Brewery, will be promptly filled. JOS. LOEWEN, LOUIS ERB, Proprietors.

FOUND

ON THE SAANICH ROAD, LAST EVENING, a Bag containing articles of value to the owner which may be had on application at The Colonist office not day

NOTICE

FROM AND AFTER THIS DATE I will only accept OGIN for RENTS as well as other payments to be made to me. L. LOEWENBERG 370

Underwriters' Survey.

Mr Ritchie, Navigating Lieutenant of H M S Soyfa, and Capt Wyde of the Colonial Customs Department, made a partial inspection of the cargo of the Corsair and found some dampness from salt water, but not much apparent injury. To-day the ship will commence discharging, when a more thorough survey will take place.

No News.

The telegraph line having been down south of Portland yesterday, we are without any further news from the west of war.

Dominion Mail Summary.

Yesterday's mails brought us one day's later exchange from Canada, being up to the 27th ult. The express train going West met with an accident on the Great Western, near Eschville, on the 26th, by which four passengers were seriously, some of them it was feared, fatally injured. The shoving of a cart had inundated a portion of the road, causing some rails to be displaced. The engine jumped over the break, but one of the cars was smashed up.

A letter from Sir John A. Macdonald was received at Ottawa on the 24th. It announced the almost complete convalescence of the writer and his intention of leaving for the capital early in September, in order to be present at the meeting of Council on the 15th. A most diabolical attempt to fire the city of Ottawa had been detected. The Hon P Mitchell was about to make an official tour of the maritime provinces. The Governor-General and Lady Young were at Quebec where they would remain until the beginning of October, and be present at the Provincial Exhibition.