

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, May 31, 1864.

BRITISH COLUMBIAN CUSTOMS LAW.

A few numbers back, we alluded to the amendment which had been recently made to the British Columbian Customs Proclamation, 1859, and which prohibits vessels from clearing at Victoria for British Columbia ports north of the Fraser. Our remarks on that occasion have called forth an article in the British Columbian, which endeavors to press on the attention of Governor Seymour the necessity of having a revenue cutter, or of turning one of the gun-boats into a cruiser after supposed smugglers along the Northern Coast. We have no intention of dwelling at the recent action of the Legislative Council of the neighboring colony, on the ground simply that their amendment is injurious to Victoria, for we are well aware of the little consistency which is felt by these gentlemen at any mistake which might happen Vancouver Island commerce; but we wish to show them that in this particular instance, they are simply to use a rather unclassical phrase—"cutting off their nose to spite their face."

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.

A few days since, we noticed in our local columns that a petition had been going the rounds for signature, requesting His Excellency to take some steps as a temporary expedient until a school bill should become law, to enable the numerous schoolless children around Victoria to obtain a modicum of education. The result of the petition, independent of the general expression of those most vitally concerned in the subject of education, gives us some interesting statistics which are worthy of notice. It appears that after a very imperfect canvass, extending in but very few instances to the numerous families in the suburbs, 140 persons have signed the petition, whose children number 350—the principal portion being of school-going age. The children of those who have not been canvassed will probably amount to 200 more, making a total of 550, under sixteen years. Deducting from this number those whose age unfits them for school attendance, and we shall have something in the neighborhood of 400 boys and girls requiring the supervision of the schoolmaster. Out of the 350 children represented on the petition, there are but 200 attending school; about 100 whose parents are unable to send, on account of the high rates of tuition; and 50 of too tender years to leave home. It may be safely said that the children of laborers and mechanics in the suburbs, not represented on the petition, are in a worse plight than those in the heart of the town—swelling up, therefore, the sum of uneducated helplessness to a figure that reflects disgrace, if not indeed calamity, on the members of our Legislature. It is sad to think of such a mass of ignorance growing up in our midst, through the

THE BUTE MASSACRE.

Further Particulars.

By the arrival of the Otter on Saturday night from New Westminster we are in possession of further details of the proceedings of the Expedition recently sent up on the gunboat Forward to Bute Inlet, which throw some additional light on the late tragedy. The following particulars we extract from the Columbian, omitting such portion of the details as have already appeared in the Colonist.

THE COWICHAN MURDER.

Editor British Colonist.—In your paper of the 9th, you publish an account of the capture of the murderer, which is, in some respects, a variance with the facts of the case, and as it is desirable to the public mind that only the truth should appear, I wish to observe that the priest was from his home at the time; in fact was on his way back from Victoria. But his assistant, a layman, was the person who prevailed upon the murderer, after the latter had been lodged, to surrender himself to Mr. Smith. The other details may be considered as the embellishment of the case. It is quite true that How-a-matcha had been drinking; that the murdered man had provoked and quarrelled with him—and I think when the trial is on it will be proved that the unfortunate man was the first to draw his knife; and that the prisoner endeavored at first to prevent his doing so. By inserting these few you will much oblige.

WHAT THE HYACKS CAN DO.

Our British Columbia contemporary, in giving a description of the burning of the theatre at the Royal Engineer Camp, makes the following assertion, which our Victoria friends may swallow if they can: "Although the fire company did not arrive till the buildings were far gone yet the quickness of their movements was none the less creditable to them. Precisely ten minutes from the time the first reel of the fire bell was heard, a stream of water from the 'Fire King' was playing upon the flames! When it is remembered that the engine had to be drawn about a mile, and much of the way up a steep grade, this was wonderfully quick!"

THE LATE NEWS FROM SKIDGATE.

The necessity of receiving with great reservation the reports which some times find currency respecting strikes made by mining companies is fully verified by the following contradiction appended by the Columbian to the notice inserted by a contemporary of the recent report from Skidgate:

DISCOVERY OF RICH SILVER ORES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A vein of exceedingly rich silver ore, said to resemble that of the Oquirrh lead in Washoe, has recently been discovered in the Shuswap country. A portion of the rock, taken from the surface, forming a very indifferent specimen of the lead, has been sent down to this city for assay, and found to contain over \$600 to the ton. A company of influential gentlemen was formed yesterday, and active operations will be forthwith commenced. A gentleman upon whom implicit reliance can be placed is conducting the up country arrangements.

GOOD NEWS FROM EUROPE.

MORE CAPITAL COMING.—We are much gratified to learn from a gentleman in this city that the well-known wealthy European firm of Erlanger & Co., who negotiated the Parisian Confederate loan of \$15,000,000, are about to open a branch in this colony. The local agency will represent a large number of Parisian and German capitalists, for the purpose of investment in landed and other property. Messrs. Pioche & Co., of San Francisco, are the Californian agents for the same house.

APPOINTMENTS.

The appointments of Joseph William Trutch, Esquire, to be Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Surveyor-General of British Columbia, appear in the Government Gazette of Saturday.

ANOTHER INDIAN MASSACRE.

While the public mind is still agitated with the sad intelligence which recently reached us from Bute Inlet, another report of further Indian atrocities, has come to hand, leaving but little room to doubt that a number of unsuspecting colonists have again fallen victims to the thirst for blood which has taken hold of the band of savages now overrunning the country on the Bute and Bentinck routes.

THE GREAT INDIAN GATHERING AT NEW WESTMINSTER.

From the Columbian of Saturday. The great and novel feature of the day was the Indian demonstration, which was entirely new and altogether most impressive. No part of the proceedings was more striking than the distribution of prizes to 40 Indian boys of the Educational and Industrial Establishment at St. Mary's (on the Fraser), for the improvement of the Indians.

LETTERS FROM CARIBOO.

We have advices from Cariboo to the 19th inst., containing very little, however, in addition to what we have already published. The Wake-up-Jake claim continues to yield from 200 to 300 ounces a day, thirty feet from the surface!

ARRIVAL OF TREASURES.

The steamer Reliance arrived last evening, bringing Metz & Nelson's Express, with \$25,000 in treasure.

GOING TO BUTE.

His Excellency Governor Seymour left on Thursday for Bute Inlet on board Her Majesty's gun-boat Forward. His Excellency's return is looked for about Wednesday next.

GOING TO CARIBOO.

Captain Holmes and Surveyor-General Trutch left for Cariboo on Thursday. Mr. Trutch goes to survey the proposed wagon-road from the Mouth of Quesselle to Williams Creek, and as it is presumed Capt. Holmes will be appointed Acting Surveyor-General during that officer's absence, he has probably undertaken the present trip in order to make himself personally familiar with the route and other particulars in the colony.

NOT MUCH HEAT.

We are happy to learn that the injury sustained by Mr. Dumbear while firing the salute to Governor Seymour on his leaving Yale is very slight indeed.

THE WATERS FALLING.

The waters of the Fraser have fallen several feet at Yale.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, 21st MAY, 1864.

Duties, £1284 14 4; tonnage dues, £15 4 4; head-money, £24 4; Number of passengers entering at this port during same period, 171.

A FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE THEATRE AT THURSDAY.

Mr. Demey's household furniture was entirely destroyed, and nothing belonging to the Theatre except the library, was saved. The Hyacks, and a number of citizens and Indian, were on the spot, and rendered effective service.

A NURSERY OF "JULY TARS."

From the fleet has been on leave the last couple of days, and indulging in their characteristic pranks.

ADDRESS ON INDIAN CHIEFS TO GOVERNOR SEYMOUR.

[From the Columbian.]

We are indebted to the politeness of the Rev. Mr. Fosquet, for the following correct copy of the address of the native Chiefs to Governor Seymour. We should explain that the form of address was submitted previously to all the Chiefs, and agreed to; and it was arranged that the three Chiefs who addressed His Excellency on Tuesday were to represent all the others.

We know the good heart of the Queen for the Indians. You bring that good heart with you, so we are happy to welcome you. We wish to become good Indians, and to be friends with the white people.

MR. INDIAN FRIENDS.

I am glad to see you and to find that so many have come down to show their loyalty to our Queen. You are the good Indians. I shall be good to them, but harsh and severe to the bad ones.

MR. INDIAN FRIENDS.

I am glad you wish to be civilized and raised to an equality with the white men. Cultivate your lands. Send your children to school. Listen to what the sergeants tell you, and believe in it.

FROM THE NORTH WEST COAST.

The B. Co.'s steamer Labouche arrived from a trading voyage on Saturday afternoon, after an absence of 78 days. She brings a valuable cargo of furs, although in less quantity than she generally stores.

THE RIGHT KIND OF FRAGILE TO EXPORT.

The following notice of birth extraordinary, appears in a late English paper:—On Tuesday last, Mrs. Kennedy, of No. 37, Vaughan-terrace, Shepherdess-walk, was safely delivered by Dr. B. E. Simpson, of the City road, of four fine female infants, who, together with the mother, are doing well.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

We understand that His Excellency the Governor has appointed Henry Wakeford, Esquire, to be Colonial Secretary of Vancouver Island. Mr. Wakeford was Police Magistrate at Perth, Western Australia, also Clerk to the Legislative Council of that colony and was for several years Private Secretary to Governor Keane. He arrived with Mrs. Wakeford by the last mail steamer on a visit to the Governor's family, having obtained leave of absence for 18 months.

CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION.

We understand that Mr. Waddington has made a claim upon the Government of British Columbia for compensation for losses sustained through the recent Indian outbreaks at Bute Inlet. Mr. Waddington grounds his claim upon the fact of his having paid about \$2000 to the Government in duties, which he considers entitled him to protection. We further learn that Governor Seymour favorably entertains the claim of Mr. Waddington, but that the amount of indemnity will depend on the result of the investigations now being made.

WE LEARN FROM MADRID.

That a company is forming at Cadix, for sailing a ship canal from some point in Trafalgar Bay into the Mediterranean, so as to facilitate the transit of wind-bound vessels waiting to vain sometimes weeks at the Straits for entrance. The precise nature of this scheme is not explained, but the rock of Gibraltar becomes thus an island, and has to be severed altogether from Andalusia.