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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL 12. VICTORIA. VANCOUVER ISLAND WEDNESDAY. MARCH 1. 1871. NO 12.

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PUBLISHED DAILY BY
DAVID W. HIGGINS

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PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY MORNING,

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The Electoral Franchise.

We have just been reading a very able and interesting paper on 'Democratic Government in Victoria.' The paper gives a sketch of the history of that richest of all the Australian group of Colonies, the introduction of Responsible Government therein and the adoption of 'manhood suffrage,' with its attendant consequences. Victoria commenced its separate existence with a single House of Legislature similar to the one so recently cast off by British Columbia. In 1856 Victoria commenced business under a new and more liberal constitution, conferring upon it powers of self or responsible government. The new constitution created two Houses, both elective. The Upper House imposed upon its members a freehold qualification of £5,000, and an electoral franchise as follows: Freehold qualification worth £1000, or of the annual value of £100. The Lower House was elected upon the following franchise: Freehold worth £50, or of the annual value of £5, or a leasehold worth £10., or a salary of £100., or the possession of a licence to occupy crown lands for the space of twelve months. It was not long before the people of Victoria came to a knowledge of their newly-acquired power. Scarcely had the constitution been fairly inaugurated before an agitation commenced for a more liberal one. The taste for political power only gave them a relish for more. The cry was raised for the ballot, and for manhood suffrage, the franchise, as originally devised in the new constitution, excluding the whole body of the miners. Says the writer of the paper, 'The competition between two rival ministers for popularity, Mr O'Shaughnessy and Mr Haines, each of whom lived bitterly to repent his share in the act, precipitated the Colony into manhood suffrage in the second year of the constitution.' 'To have arrived at manhood suffrage,' reflects the writer, 'without having achieved it was but a bad introduction to the practical art of self-ruling.' To rest the whole fabric of government, he continues, 'upon manhood suffrage, before the quality of manhood, in the civic sense, had time to develope, could not be otherwise than a hazardous experiment in any community.' 'Here,' he exclaims, 'is the garden of the Australian continent, where, if anywhere, democracy should flower. Here Government indeed, which it is but a fabric built on the ruins of Paradise should be least wanted; and the common sense of most be sufficient for a polity. Nature has done so much and has left the rest so easy to do in this beautiful land that we might almost expect constitutions to be superfluous. The necessity for any politics in such an atmosphere can only be regarded in the same light as the need of garments to the South Sea Islanders; and Government becomes as much a badge of lost innocence as a petticoat on a girl of Tahiti.' The writer of the paper before us invites to the contemplation of results. 'One of the first results of manhood suffrage in Victoria was to divide the population into two hostile camps, corresponding, not to two political parties, but to two social classes. To use a well-worn metaphor, the cleavage in Victorian politics is not vertical, as in constitutional England but horizontal. The distinction between the majority and the minority is not a difference of opinion so much as in interest, in wealth, and in intelligence. The contest means a conflict between the successful and the unsuccessful—between the fortunate and the unfortunate—between the workers who are at the end of their career and the workers who are at the beginning. In other words, the struggle for political power is reduced to a scramble for the spoils of Government. Such a contest, of course, could only end in the survival of the fittest—the fittest being taken to mean the most needy, the most daring, and the most unscrupulous.' This is dismal enough, but there is worse to come. The influence of the principal of manhood suffrage is perhaps best seen in the *personnel* of the Legislature. Referring to the composition of the Lower House he says, "They are not even a reflection of the average honesty and intelligence of the mass of the electors. As a rule they are selected purely for their negative qualities. They need not be honest, so long as they are obedient, and they need not be intelligent so long as they are docile." * * * "As a vessel, it is clear that he is required not to be full but empty when he comes to the constituency for his instructions. * * * The candidate who is preferred is the man who has nothing,—who is not independent, who is not fastidious, who is not in any way particular, or remarkable. Upon such a blank democracy is able to impress its will most fully. It is not that under such a system the chosen representatives are all rogues or fools. Usually they comply with the famous rule of Lord Verulam, and in their ambition are a little of the fool and not too much of the honest. * * * They are active chiefly in corruption, in the practice of which they have acquired much skill and dexterity.' Then follow instances where a forger and a murderer sat side by side in the Legislature, where a bankrupt tailor and a sweeper of privies on a railway—a true son of the "soil," as he was facetiously called, sat for important districts, one of the oldest members being a retired brothel-keeper, another member of the latter profession, not retired, but in the full flush and exercise of his trade, sitting in the Lower House for a large and important agricultural district, being introduced to the House as a liberal member between the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General. "In none of these was the member even moderately reputable in character, or of average ability or intelligence. They were not chosen for any other qualification than that of being supple and obedient in respect to political principles.....As a rule, when two men are opposed to each other at an election, in three out of four of the Victorian constituencies, the worse man, the more ignorant, the less honest and the more reckless is chosen..... There is no bribery at elections in Victoria, because there is no one to bribe in the way in which people are usually bribed. The Victorian candidate would take it as an exquisite piece of humor were he complimented upon his not bribing nor intimidating his electors. The truth is that the corruption is all the other way. It is not the candidate who bribes the constituents; but the constituents who bribe the candidate in Victoria. The candidate is impecunious, the constituency is rich. The candidate is the mendicant, the constituency the relieving-officer." Such is a picture of the work of manhood suffrage in the colony of Victoria. 'It may be replied, 'But Victoria is a rich and prosperous colony.' It undoubtedly is so; but, to use the words of the author of the paper before us, 'it is so *in spite* of its government.'

TUESDAY, Feb 28th,

BLACK DIAMOND EXCITEMENT.—The arrival at San Francisco of a cargo of anthracite coal from our island of Queen Charlotte would appear to have excited a good deal of interest. The *Bulletin* notices the coal both in its money and commercial article. 'A noteworthy feature of the week,' says our contemporary, 'has been the arrival from Queen Charlotte Island of a cargo of anthracite, said to be the first hard coal discovered on the Pacific Coast. The samples exhibited have elicited favorable comment. The discovery will be of great benefit to California on account of the accessibility of the mines.' And again in its money article it says:—'A sample of it was on exhibition at the Merchants' Exchange yesterday afternoon. It is said to resemble the Lackawana description. The discovery is an important one to the manufacturing interests of California. Hitherto all our hard or Anthracite Coal has been imported from domestic Atlantic ports, the freight formerly costing from fifteen to eighteen dollars per ton, though within a year or two it has been brought for much less. The deposit at Queen Charlotte Island is said to be extensive and the coal of bituminous quality. Agents have been appointed, agents and companies have been appointed, agents and companies, we shall only be too glad to supply the Californian demand; but, in order to get the full benefit, our neighbors should throw open the Golden Gate and admit the coal free.

PUGET SOUND ITEMS. — The people of Northern Idaho desire annexation to Washington Territory, and Walla Walla county desires to join Oregon.... Mr Murphy, editor of the *Alaska Times*, has gone to Vancouver as a witness in a court martial trial against an ex-Alaska officer at that place... The first cargo of coal ever shipped from the Lake Washington Coal Company's wharf has been taken by the bark Moneyrick. She takes 200 tons.... Gen Tilton has been promoted to be Assistant Chief Engineer of the Northern Pacific Railway Company.... The Olympia *Standard* is responsible for the following cruel pun: 'The proposition to indict the editor of the Alaska *Times* for murdering the King's English has failed for the reason that the victim could not be identified in any Court in Washington Territory.'

GOING TO BELLINGHAM BAY.—Amongst the passengers by the Olympia yesterday were Messrs Gough, Malpass and Wilkinson of Nanaimo, who have been over at the Bellingham Bay coal mine in search of employment. We understand they have been successful in attaining the object of their visit, and they return to Nanaimo to-day for the purpose of arranging their affairs with a view to removing to Bellingham Bay. It is extremely to be regretted that it should be necessary for old and valuable residents to leave the colony in search of employment; but we sincerely trust their absence may be only temporary.

THE ONTARIO SURPLUS. — The Ontario Government has a surplus of Provincial revenue on hand amounting to upwards of three million dollars. A bill is to be introduced during the present session of the Provincial Legislature for the disposition of that large sum.

AMONG the passengers by the California to-day will be Mr Lewis Lewis, who has been a resident of Victoria since 1858. Mr Lewis was one of the earliest goldseekers, and remembers Victoria when it was a mere handful of old settlers' houses. We are glad to know that he contemplates an early return

THE ship B Aymar, from Burrard Inlet Nov 28th and Victoria Dec 2nd, put into Acapulco, Mexico, on Jan 26th, leaking badly. After taking out half the cargo the leak still continued. Went on discharging the rest of the cargo and the captain reported that another survey would be made as soon as the copper was out of water.

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE SALE—On Tuesday next Mr Lumley Franklin will hold the most extensive and important sale of land offered in this city for many a day. The lot comprises town lots, country, homestead and farming land. The terms will be very liberal.

THE OLYMPIA.—This steamer arrived from Olympia and way ports at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, bringing 70 passengers, 58 head of cattle and 90 sheep for Victoria consignees. We are indebted to Mr Finch, purser, for late files. The Olympia will sail at 10.30 o'clock this morning for Puget Sound.

STORMY. — Passengers by the Sound steamers report terrible storms of several days' duration. In southern Oregon and northern California bridges were swept away roads gullied and telegraph and stage communication interrupted for seven days.

THE bark Shooting Star arrived at San Francisco from Nanaimo on the 15th Feb, with a cargo of coal, having been only 27 days in making the round trip, including loading—one of the best runs within our remembrance.

PASSENGERS PER CALIFORNIA. — The following names were booked last evening for passage to Portland: Captain H Gregory, E Collingridge, Lewis Lewis, A Hoffmeister, Beal, Mrs. McGreavy, C F Peavost.

DEPARTURE BAY.—The perseverance of Mr Dunsmuir at Departure Bay has been at length rewarded. On Thursday last the prospectors struck a nine-foot seam of coal at a depth of 120 feet.

FOR the information of residents in this locality who are not already aware of the fact, we may state that it blew hard on Sunday night and yesterday. So far as heard from, no serious damage was inflicted.

POLICE ENQUIRY.—A private enquiry into the charge preferred against Officer Hunter of Esquimalt by Mr Rae, was held yesterday by the Police Magistrate. Copious evidence was heard; and the accused was acquitted.

WEEKLY COLONIST.—Copies of the *Weekly Colonist* are now ready and may be obtained at the publication office, at Hibben & Co's, and at D Spencer's, Government street.

ARRESTED.—A half-breed has been arrested at Seattle on suspicion of being the person who broke into the Union Saloon in this city on Monday night last.

THE HOPE. — This well known Fraser river steamboat, having been rebuilt, will commence making early trips to Yale from New Westminster.

THE ROAD CRAKERS have been landed from the Prince of Wales and will be shipped by the first boat for Yale.

NAVAL.—H.M.S. Scylla from Honolulu, and Fawn from Valparaiso, are hourly expected.

THE steamer Isabel, Capt Parker, arrived from the Sound last evening at 6½ o'clock, with about 20 passengers and a mail.

THE mail steamer Isabel will sail for Port Townsend to-day at noon, and will connect with the Alida for Olympia and way ports.

THE TENNESSEAN.—We infer from a dispatch respecting the Commissioners, that this vessel reached San Domingo in safety.

WEEKLY SALE.—Mr Franklin's next weekly sale of merchandise will be held on Thursday.

THE California will sail at 7 o'clock this morning for Portland.

THE Enterprise will sail for New Westminster at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE Olympia, yesterday, brought San Francisco papers to the 18th February.

Caution.

The Fashionable World and all purchasers of Florida Water, should be careful to see that they get the true "Murray & Lanman's Florida Water." All other preparations under the name of Florida Water are comparatively worthless, and possess none of the virtues of the genuine article which is prepared only by Lanman & Kemp, New York, sole proprietors. 563

LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES.

Europe.

PARIS, Feb 25—M Porrierquestier has been appointed Minister of Commerce.

Thiers went to Versailles to-day and after his return consulted the commission of fifteen. It is believed negotiations were resumed to-day. It is said the present difficulty is with the Treaty of Commerce. The newspapers oppose the Prussians' alleged intention of imposing a commercial treaty on France. *Le Temps* says the annual product of the landed property of France will not for a long time exceed 13.000 000.000 francs, therefore an indemnity of 1.000.000.000 is excessive.

The sympathetic words of President Grant's message towards the German empire are a painful surprise to the French democracy.

VERSAILLES, Feb 24—Midnight—Thiers, Favre and Bismarck held a long conference on Friday. The terms of peace are agreed upon, but their exact nature is a profound secret. It is only known that they resemble previous accounts and will be submitted on Saturday to the Consultation Committee. Peace is certain. The armistice is not to be prolonged and the Prussians enter Paris on Monday.

BORDEAUX, Feb 24—No news is received respecting the negotiations at Versailles. Mute silence will be maintained until the conditions of peace are decided on.

LONDON, Feb 24—The *Telegraph's* Paris dispatch of the 23 d says all the conditions of peace are now settled, except that of money. The Germans demand 2 000 000 thalers, while France has offered to pay 1. 000 000. The Germans have allowed 750 . 000 for the requisitions, and fines and the debts of Alsace and Lorraine, but hold out for 1.250.000.

Count Senkel and Banker Bleichechroove have gone to Paris from Versailles to discuss the financial question with Theirs. Bismarck demands six hundred million francs, deducting contributions already levied. This Thiers opposes vigorously.

A *Times'* special from Versailles to-day says Bismarck doubts the conclusion of peace. If France demands a prolonged armistice hostilities will recommence at midnight on the 26th inst.

The guns of the forts are turned towards Paris.

A Havre dispatch says great indignation is felt that the Germans have occupied Honfleur, a stipulated neutral ground.

An Amiens dispatch says unfavorable news has been received from Versailles. The German troops are already in motion.

The Brussels *Nord* say Bismarck hints at a restoration of the Paris impost of 200 . 000.000 francs if hostile manifestations are made during the passage of the Germans through the city.

A Paris letter, dated Feb 22nd, says a conflict is expected should the Germans enter the city.

The *Journal de Paris* says Bismarck, at the request of Thiers, has ordered a cessation of requisitions on the inhabitants of all sections, and has declared that all contributions levied since the 28th January will be deducted from the indemnity.

PARIS, Feb 24—It is rumored that the Assembly, on leaving Bordeaux, will reassemble at Fontainebleau.

The journals say the demands made by the Germans in finance have produced a powerful impression in the Cabinets of Vienna, St Petersburg and London.

LONDON, Feb 24—In the House of Commons to-night Disraeli made a powerful speech on the foreign policy. He argued that the House should consider the gravity of the Eastern question and the serious consequences of Russia's repudiation of the treaty of 1856, which had cost England such sacrifices to make. He said it had been generally believed that Russell's errand to Bismarck was to announce to him that England stood ready to join Prussia in opposing Russian repudiation, now it seemed the Government denied that such was the object of Russell's mission. Gladstone replied, denouncing Disraeli's inferences and expressing surprise that the right honorable gentleman should heed and repeat the rumors on which they were based. To estrange Russia at a moment so critical by gratuitous language was simply madness. The Conference would hear Russia's case in all fairness and act it out with justice. He declared there was no truth in the report that a messenger had been sent to Versailles to congratulate the German Princes on their victories.

BORDEAUX, Feb 25—It is generally concluded that the Assembly will not meet tomorrow, and the armistice will be extended 48 hours.

LONDON, Feb 25—The French Ambassador presented his credentials yesterday.

The *Times* says the health of the Queen of Spain is improving.

A Paris special says the French people object more to the form than the substance of the Prussian terms. The preliminaries have been settled, but the stipulations of the treaty are not yet agreed upon. The French are endeavoring to obtain the abandonment of the distressing conditions. Peace is regarded in Paris as signed.

PARIS, Feb 34—Blanc, Hugo, Rochefort and the Radicals of the Government will present in the Assembly a motion demanding the impeachment of Napoleon.

It is said Thiers accepts the principle of territorial cession, but strives to save Metz. Bismarck agrees, but Moltke objects.

The Prussians continue their levies and are imprisoning upon refusal.

LONDON, Feb 25—There is great uneasiness in the north of France on the subject of peace negotiations. Everything is in readiness to inundate the country.

The *Echo du Nord* protests against the theory of revenge as contrary to the national interests as well as those of the progress of peace.

A terrible colliery explosion has occurred in South Wales. Fifty persons were killed.

Eastern States.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—The British members of the Joint High Commission reached here to-day.

KINGSTON, Feb. 23—It is rumored that a revolution has broken out in Hayti, and that Salnave will be made President. A proclamation has appeared from Capitoli calling on all true Dominicans to drive Baez from the country and prevent San Domingo being sold like merchandise.

WASHINGTON, Feb 23—The President has offered a joint resolution, prescribing the form of oath to be taken by Senator Miller of Georgia. He will be admitted to the Senate to-morrow.

CHICAGO, Feb 25—A severe gale prevailed throughout the northwest doing considerable damage in this city.

NEW YORK, Feb 25—The U S frigate California, 23 guns, Capt J M B Clitz, is anchored off the battery. Her supply of powder will soon be stowed away and in about ten days she will sail for San Francisco

WASHINGTON, Feb 25—English members of the Joint High Commission visited the State Department yesterday and were introduced by Sir Edward Thornton to Mr Fish. They will be introduced to the President to-day. A preliminary meeting will probably be held on Monday next, but they will not organise regularly for work until the arrival of Macdonald, Northcote and Hoar. There seems to be an impression that the sessions and discussions of the Commission are to be open, but this is an error.

A Washington special says gentlemen who have returned from San Domingo state that the associated press dispatch published this morning to the effect that the Commissioners had decided not to send a preliminary report as information to be acquired may change their present opinion, was probably not intended to intimate that new discoveries had been made, but that the Commissioners propose visiting Hayti and do not wish to commit themselves to opinions based on a one-sided and partial survey. It is the opinion of these persons that the Commissioners' report will declare the natural advantages and beauties of the country fully equal to what has been reported. What will be said on other topics is not known.

California

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 26 — Sailed—Ship Nicholas Biddle, Port Blakely, schr Maggie Johnson, Melbourne, ship Clarendon, Burrard Inlet, bark Shooting Star, Nanaimo, schr Clara Light, Port Townsend, ship Grace Darling, Seabeck.

Flour—Oregon bxrs is selling at $6 75@ $7, superfine in sks. $5 75@6, extra in sks. $6 87½@7.

Wheat—$2 10@2 25.

Oats—Firm at $1 60@1 75.

Subscriptions are urgently solicited for the families of the men who perished in an attempt to reach Honolulu in the gig of the U S S Saginaw to obtain assistance for the shipwrecked officers and crew of that vessel. The lost men leave families of small children wholly destitute.

The barometer has been changing this week in a very violent manner with no assignable cause. Some prophesy earthquakes as the result.

Mrs Laura Fair will be tried for the murder of A P Crittenden in the 15th District Court on March 20th, she having been arraigned and pleaded not guilty to-day.

VISALIA, Feb 25—Stages from Havilah have failed to arrive for the last four days. There is said to be from five to ten feet of snow on the mountains between here and Havilah where there is usually but a few inches.

LOS ANGELOS, Feb 26—The Prescott (Arizona) *Miner* of the 18th inst. contains the following: This section is alive with Indians, who are becoming bolder every day.

DECIDEDLY BUSY.—The rush of people to Noltemeir's Boot and Shoe Store, adjoining the St Nicholas Hotel, is unprecedented, and the cry is—'Still they come.' The goods were sold lower than ever before, and the closing out sale will be continued this week at a still greater reduction.*

A REQUISITE SUPPLIED.—To avoid the necessity which has heretofore existed of sending to San Francisco to have finished Bookbinding, Robert Williams has by study, application and practice in the largest establishments in California, perfected himself in the art of Bookbinding and Ruling, both plain and ornamental, and is supplied with all the necessary material and machinery. Always to be found at T N HIBBEN & Co's.*

A. GILMORE, MERCHANT TAILOR, and General Outfitter, has removed his place of business to the store adjoining the Colonist Hotel and opposite the Colonist Office, on Government street, fourth door from Yates, where he proposes to give his old friends and new customers a chance on the principle of quick sales and small profits. *

IT is a great mistake to suppose that the cause of rheumatism, neuralgia or gout exists where the pain is experienced. The source of the diseases is generally "urea," in the blood, and it is one of the special properties of Dr Walker's Vegetable Vinegar Bitters to neutralise this deposit, while it renovates the relaxed kidneys and thus prevents them from permitting a portion of their secretion to escape through improper channels. Torpidity of the stomach has also much to do with the vitiation of the blood, and upon this organ the Bitters act directly as a stimulant and invigorant. 3

Malaria!

Chills and fever, fever and ague, and every kind of intermittent and remittent fever, spring from one cause, viz: Inhalation of malaria, or miasma, which vitiates and depraves the biliary secrations, and deranges the natural action of the stomach and liver, and produces the above diseases. Bristol's Sarsaparilla and Pills are the surest and safest of all correctors and invigorators of the liver and stomach. They are a certain cure for malarial diseases. 579.