

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday January 5, 1870.

The Good Work.

Although without the power to divine Executive secrets, we have reason to believe that the good work of adapting the Civil List to the ability and necessities of the country goes bravely forward. His Excellency Governor Macgrave came to the colony with a carte blanche—full power to use the pruning-knife of retrenchment at discretion. There can be little doubt that his predecessor was invested with a similar power; but, unfortunately for the country, he lacked the nerve to handle the knife. As our readers have been quite prepared to expect, retrenchment will be attained more by an amalgamation of offices or departments than by a reduction of salaries. Few of the official salaries are really too high. The people have no desire to have their affairs managed by underpaid officials. Pay them well, and work them well. Pay them well, and have fewer of them. It is not our present intention to go over the well beaten ground of retrenchment. It is not necessary that we should. enough has already been written; and the Governor has doubtless made himself familiar with the popular view, as expressed through the press. It will not be considered out of place, however, to remark that His Excellency appears to have hit the true line, in more than one instance. There was, perhaps, no greater extravagance than that of maintaining the class of officers known as Subsidary Magistrates, so long after the condition of the country rendered them an expensive and useless ornament. With a proper re-distribution of the judiciary, there is probably not a single community out of Victoria that really requires the presence of such an officer. The size of this community, and the large commercial and maritime interests represented therein, undoubtedly render necessary the constant presence of a Subsidary Police Magistrate, and it is satisfactory to know that Victoria possesses an efficient officer in this capacity. But the time has come when a system of honorary Justices of the Peace should take the place of that of Subsidary Magistrates in all the country districts. It is with no little satisfaction, therefore, that we heartily intimate that this is one of the changes now in progress that those Justices of the Peace should be appointed in each district. Of course, overruling will be ready to ask, "What about the Judiciary?" Aye, sure enough; what about it? Has the Governor power to grapple with this great, great grievance? Has he the nerve to put an end to the judicial monstrosity of two Chief Justices, each supreme and alone in his own section, and each administering under a distinct judicial system, with all the endless train of complications, confusions, imperfections, delays, expenses, and hindrances to the attainment of justice? His Excellency has the advantage of a legal training, and will, therefore, the more readily realize the measure of his grievance. He will do much towards securing the confidence and earning the gratitude of the people if he succeeds in removing it. Upon the general subject of retrenchment it is enough to say that the colony has been over-governed, is well governed, and the face of the earth has, for the most part, had done enough to do the work of one. Consequently, everything has gone wrong. The colony has come to be regarded in the light of a China preserve for Dowling-Sreet patisserie, and its affairs have been in reality administered more in the interest of the Chinese than of the people. The motto, "The country for the people," has been completely reversed, and made to read, "The country for the Government." The result of heavy taxation has been almost entirely absorbed by the Chinese, who, in the interest of the Civil List, leaving little or nothing to which the colony has pinned its faith, have taken up the whole of the public service, and, in so far as possible, supplanting the native population. The Chinese, however, have not been able to do this, and, in so far as possible, have withdrawn from the colony, leaving a vacuum which is gradually being filled by the Chinese. The colony is thus left to itself, and, in so far as possible, has been reduced to a state of semi-dependence upon the Chinese. The colony is thus left to itself, and, in so far as possible, has been reduced to a state of semi-dependence upon the Chinese.

ANOTHER CARIBOO OPENING OUT!

The following extract, which we have been permitted to make from a private letter from Peace River received at Quesnelmouth on the 8th inst., will be found interesting:

Buckley arrived from Stuart's Lake this morning. He reports more snow at Quesnel than anywhere between here and Stuart's Lake. Fred Black and McMillan caught Buckley and Kans about 100 miles from here and they all got to Stuart's Lake together. Kans left Stuart's Lake a day and a half ahead of Black, but a heavy storm compelled him to lay to. Black and Thompson will beat him to the Buckley House, as they went in a small canoe and Kans had a large heavy boat.

Chapman, on his return to Fort St. James, told Ogden his party averaged two ounces to the man, and Mike Byrnes and Vattell reported the same from their party. He had prospected the creek for 5 miles and always got about the same prospect. The upper end of the creek is more confined and bed rock deeper, and he thinks it may be better. The creek is about 5 miles long. The Chapman crowd recorded discovery claims on the creek which they worked last summer. But Mike Byrnes refused to record claims on it, and said he had a better creek to work, but he and Vattell are the only ones who know where it is. They refuse to divulge this while Kans' party are there. Buckley says the original explorers were perfectly wild when they reached Stuart's Lake and found others ahead of them. Each asserted the other for his right to the diggings. *San Francisco News*

THEATRE ROYAL.—The Carter Troupe labored under the disadvantage last evening of opening with a piece which, less than two years ago, was played over and over again by the Stone Troupe; but Fanchon the Cricket, in the hands of an accomplished artist like Carrie Carter, is a role that must always be attractive, and the house notwithstanding a diversion in another quarter, was well filled. The piece was strongly and successfully cast. Miss Carter being ably supported by Mr. V. J. Carter as London, Mr. W. Berry (a veteran comedian) as Duster, Mr. Robinson (one of the first theatre built in Victoria in 1860) Miss Nellie Cummings, who was here with the Carter Troupe last Spring, Mrs. Bird, and other performers. The fine scene in Fanchon in the Shadow Dance, and a scene with the cricket dancing in the moonlight and aphorisms of her shadow, etc. The Maypole Dance by the full company was beautifully done, and the curtain rang down and a round of deafening applause. This evening the elegant comedy of "Married Life," with Carrie Carter as Miss Samuel Candy, and the sweet little farce of "Mrs. Baker," will be offered. We trust a generous support will be extended to the company—they really deserve it.

CARIBOO MINING INTELLIGENCE.—We have from the MINTLAND.—The steamer Enterprise, Capt. Swanson, returned from New Westminster last evening. She brought about 1000 passengers and cargo. Cariboo Express with upwards of \$40,000 in treasure. Amongst the passengers were the Hon. Mr. O'Reilly, the Hon. T. B. Hamper, Mr. P. H. Lamb, Mr. P. Moody, Mr. M. C. Bishop, T. G. Tidley. The last named gentleman wished to correct a statement published in the "Guardian." He did not say he saw a letter from Dr. Kane, but merely that he saw a letter which referred to one having been received from Kane.

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