The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, June 28, 1864.

THE NEWS.

The news received by the Anderson has been very insignificantly supplemented by that brought yesterday by the San Francisco steamer, the telegraphic wires having met with mishaps between California and the East. The intelligence received by both steamers makes no very material change in the position of affairs since our previous war *resume*, if we except the rumored capture of Fort Darling. Grant is strengthening his base at White House by entrenchments, showing clearly that he is not only not in a very great hurry, but that he calculates to have some serious work to do before Richmond is taken. His left wing we expect has by this time, forced a passage across the Chickahominy and is in a position to cooperate with Butler. On no other supposition could we account for the capture of Fort Darling, if so questionable a rumor be true. Butler's forces alone could not, we believe, have taken the place by assault, unless the attack on Petersburg, which looks more like a feint than anything else, was actually a *ruse* to throw the Confederates off their guard as to the real designs. Fort Darling on account of its lofty position cannot be taken by the iron-clads; but once in the possession of the Federals by a successful land assault, the gunboats would not be long capturing Fort Magruder and removing even the very formidable obstructions on the James river.

The successful general Hunter, after defeating the Confederates at Stanton has formed the junction, alluded to in our former article, with Crook and Averill's force of 30,000, and is now marching to join Grant with an army of 55,000 men. By the late advices this large force was about a hundred miles west of Richmond, with but little risk of interruption to its progress. Should Hunter arrive at the Confederate capital without serious molestation, Richmond will be virtually surrounded. It is this contingency, no doubt, that is causing Grant to content himself with strengthening his present position along the north bank of the Chickahominy, and feeling his way towards cooperation with Butler.

Sherman's army in Georgia is gradually closing in upon Atlanta. On the 10th inst. his main force was facing Johnson a few miles to the west of Marietta. An engagement had taken place two days afterwards, on the 12th, between McPherson's forces near Dallas, and a portion of the Confederate army, resulting, according to the despatches, in the defeat of the latter with a loss in killed and wounded of 2,500 men. It would appear that, like Grant, Sherman is endeavoring to make good his position as he advances. Extensive fortifications are being thrown up at Kingston on the line of railroad which runs to Atlanta. Reinforcements from Banks' late army were on their way to join Sherman.

In Kentucky the great guerilla chieftain, or more properly speaking "raidster," Morgan, has gained considerable successes, having captured, with a force of 3,000 men, 1,500 Federals at Cynthiana. The following day he was taken by surprise by the Union general Burbridge, and 150 of his men taken prisoners; but although the despatches say his force was utterly routed, this small number of captured men is but a poor set-off against 1,500. Another Confederate victory has been gained, according to yesterday's news, in the West, by reinforcements on their way to Johnson. It would appear that an expedition of some kind, (of which no account has previously been given), under a commander named Siurgis, was encountered by this Confederate force and utterly routed. The despatch is unusually "foggy."

On the whole, the news is more suggestive of important movements than actually important. Almost the entire Northern army is concentrating against Richmond and Atlanta. When Hunter's forces are in a position to act with Grant, the Federals will have but little short of 250,000 men on the east and west, north and south of the Confederate capital. When Sherman is fully reinforced from Canby's (late Banks) army, the Federal force, operating in Georgia, will be over 100,000. It may, therefore, with good reason, be presumed that the result of these two great military operations, will one way or the other, decide the fate of the Republic.

CAPTURE OF THE HYDAH CHIEFS. — The gunboat Grappler returned from the North Tuesday morning, with the six Hydah chiefs of the runaways from the Reserve. Among them are the well-known tybees, Capt. Jefferson, Gen. Butler, Gen. Williams and Capt. Jim. The tribe are on their way back after their captive chiefs. The runaways were captured at Nanaimo, where they arrived after the Grappler, she having passed them during the night. Sergt. Hill, who accompanied the gunboat, had some difficulty in getting hold of the prisoners, although no resistance was offered. Capt. Jefferson's party are the only ones believed to be guilty of shooting Mr. Garrett's cows, but it was deemed prudent to bring the whole of them back in order to give them warning. They persistently deny all knowledge of the act.

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times* learns that the French Government has sent two delegates to America—one civil and the other military—to ascertain and report upon the real state of the condition of affairs, and immense slaughter in the present war. Overtures have also been made by France to England with the view to devise some means of putting a stop to the frightful carnage. He reviews the affairs in Virginia as unfavorable to the Federal cause, and will not be surprised to hear of Grant's failure.

The *Morning Star* remarks that the Northern prospects are more favorable.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* thinks the results of Grant's operations are not commensurate with his losses.

The news from Denmark is very warlike. The indications are that the war will go on.

Spanish advices indicate a dispute with Peru.

The cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece has been formally completed.

It was considered not improbable that the Conference might come to an untimely end.

The London *Times* of May 6th, in an article showing that England has in no degree failed in her duty to Denmark, and that in bringing together her Conference the British Government acted to the best of its power, concluded as follows: "We may now add our opinion that the meetings of their assembly will be attended with no good results. The game of waiting for instructions is being played in a manner which proves that the German Powers do not care even to show a semblance of respect for the negotiations into which they have entered. Under these circumstances the project may well be abandoned, for a further persistence in it will be derogatory to the dignity of England, and will apparently be of no benefit to Denmark. When the Conference is at an end we shall at least be free to act untrammeled by pending negotiations."

The *Daily News* cannot perceive a circumstance to encourage the expectation that the Conference may fulfill its original work by restoring peace.

Baron Von Beust, the envoy of the German Confederation at the Conference, had been on a visit to Queen Victoria at Osborne.

The *Morning Star* learns that Earl Russell had declined to grant an audience to the members of the Schleswig and Holstein estates, who were on a visit to London as delegates to represent the views of the population of the Duchies.

The London *Times* announces, under the heading of "A Very Questionable Honor," the news that the King of Prussia had conferred the order of the Black Eagle on Prince Alfred.

The *Daily News* says: "The exchange of tokens of friendship between the Courts of England and Prussia, at a moment when the statesmen of the two countries are in flagrant opposition, may be accidental and unmeaning, but it is singularly ill timed. It is not now that the Queen's second son should be the chief guest at a royal banquet at Berlin, or receiving from the King of Prussia such decorations as fitly award the executioners of Duppel; nor is Baron Beust—the soul of the war party in Germany, and the statesman who has most distinguished himself by the insolent treatment of our Government—the plenipotentiary whom the public could have expected to see singled out for the hospitalities of our own Court."

A portion of the British Channel fleet had sailed for the North Sea, to watch the Austrian fleet. The mission was confided to Sir Leopold McClintock, in the frigate Aurora—and the steamer Black Eagle had accompanied the Aurora.

The London *Morning Post*, in announcing this movement, speaks as follows:

The mission is to watch the Austrian fleet, and in the event of its shaping its course for the Baltic, the Channel fleet will at once sail, with the avowed object of saving the Danes from being overpowered at sea. England cannot see a German armada go coasting along her shores on its mission of destruction, and allow the finest fleet in the world to remain at anchor as the aggressive force passes them in the Downs. Our diplomacy has been cajoled and defeated; we have been played with and laughed at: but we have yet to see that such an insult to our national honor can be tolerated. The German Powers never mean to make peace on the basis of the treaty of 1852, and hence all the delay as to the preliminary armistice. They believe themselves to be masters of the situation, and they use and abuse their position. Here we have the key to their conduct at the Conference. Count Bismark has pushed forward, step by step, on the principle that England never interferes with accomplished facts; so he gradually brings about one after another, till he at last shall announce the dismemberment and annihilation of Denmark; his calculation being that even in that supreme hour England will say: "The thing is done—we cannot undo it—let us chronicle the facts in our new map of Europe." We have been very unwilling to move. Even now our action is very cautious; but only the last provocation is needed to make it decided and rapid. But at length, after a long and steady blow of triumphant aggression, the tide is on the turn. The arm of England bars the passage to the Baltic, and her ironclads are ready to save Copenhagen and the Islands. It is a great error to suppose that England will not move without France. French naval action on the Baltic necessarily implies her military action on the Rhine. With us it is different. If we were involved in war it would merely require the services of our Channel and Mediterranean fleets. The Germans could not touch us, while we could blockade their ports, and a blockade in the Adriatic would probably throw Venetia and Hungary into immediate revolution.

The London *Star* asserts that there is a minority in the British Cabinet inclined toward a war policy, but it is only a minority, and any attempt to push that war policy into action, would result certainly in a break up of the Cabinet.

Additional from English Papers.

TRIESTE, April 22.—Advices received here from Constantinople state that in the battle between the Circassians and Russians, on the 1st inst., the former lost 2000, and the latter 1500 men. The Circassians are now negotiating with the Turkish Government for permission to settle in Turkey. All the foreign officers who assisted the Circassians had escaped safely to Trapegund. The Porte had sent five steamers to convey them to Sinope, Samsun, and Varna.

The Confederate steamer Florida and the Federal vessel St. Louis had been at Madeira together. The St. Louis was allowed to sail 24 hours before the Florida.

The Conference, the proposed armistice, the prospects of war, and the attitude of England, afford ample scope for the comments and speculations of the French press, but there is little specially important intelligence from Paris.

THE GRANT TO THE KING OF GREECE.—Mr. Ayrton gave notice that, on Friday fortnight, he should move that the grant of an annuity of £4,000 to the King of Greece, out of the public moneys is a violation of the privileges of the House of Commons.

THE POLISH QUESTION.—Lord Campbell postponed from Monday till Monday next his motion in the House of Lords on the independence of Poland. His Lordship will move the following resolutions:—"That in the opinion of this House the correspondence of her Majesty's Government with the Cabinet of St. Petersburg on the Polish question has not as yet reached a satisfactory conclusion. That, in the opinion of this House, the Czar having failed to comply with the conditions upon which, according to the treaty of Vienna, he acquired the Sovereignty of Poland, it is no longer binding on her Majesty's Government to acknowledge it."

ENGLISH ITEMS.

ALLEGED FEDERAL OUTRAGE ON A BRITISH SUBJECT.—Lord R. Cecil, in the House of Commons, asked if the attention of Government had been called to the case of a British subject who had been wounded by a lieutenant in the American service, under circumstances of some aggravation, and maimed for life. Mr. Layard said the Government had received information which agreed with the statement already given in the newspapers. A correspondence had been commenced with the United States Government on the subject, and redress had been demanded for the outrage.

Among the items of intelligence brought by the Bombay mail we learn that the Persian Gulf telegraph has been completed, although a serious accident had for a time delayed its working; that the Bheels are very troublesome in Indore; that on the Peshwar frontier the Hill tribes are said to be intriguing and plotting; that an American ambassador has been murdered in the Punjaub; and that the budget was occupying the public mind in India.

A terrible accident has happened to the steamer Leinster Lass on her voyage from Liverpool to Drogheda. The accounts as to the loss of life are at present confused, but it is to be hoped that they are much exaggerated.

HEALTH OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.—Lord Edward Clifton has addressed the following letter, dated 18th instant, to Mr. R. Allen, Provincial Grand Secretary of the Freemasons of Nottingham, who had made an official inquiry respecting the health of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, the Provincial Grandmaster of the Masons:—"It gives me great pleasure to be able to say that my father, the Duke of Newcastle, has so far recovered from his last serious attack of nine days ago, that I was this day able to read your kind and sympathetic letter to him; it would have been useless to do so before, as my father would not have been able to understand the full meaning of it. He wishes me to express to the Freemasons of Nottingham his heartfelt gratitude for their wishes for his restoration to health, expressed in such a very touching manner. I fear that it is useless to shut our eyes altogether to the critical condition that my father is in, but I am happy to be able to tell you that a consultation of four medical men has just taken place, and they pronounce him rather better than he has been for the last few days. I think, therefore, that while gradual improvement continues, we may have more and more hope for the future."

REFORM CONFERENCE.—A Reform Conference, attended by delegates from a number of towns was opened in Manchester on Tuesday, under the presidency of Mr. George Wilson. A report from "the Executive" was read, laying down the proposed basis of the new agitation. The programme recommended for adoption was "such an extension of the franchise as will confer the suffrage, in counties as well as in boroughs, upon every male person, householder, or lodger, rated or liable to be rated for the relief of the poor, together with a more equitable distribution of seats, vote by ballot, and a limitation of the duration of Parliament to three years." This was not comprehensive enough to meet the views of Mr. Ernest Jones and several other delegates, who would agitate for nothing less than "registered manhood suffrage"—the new name, apparently, for universal suffrage; but, after a long discussion, "the Executive's" report was adopted by a large majority.

PROPOSED EXTERMINATION OF THE APACHES.—On the 10th instant, about a thousand men are to take the field for the purpose of exterminating the Apaches. Gen. Carleton on that day, will send 500 soldiers from Albuquerque, Gov. Pesquiera, 200 from Sonora, the citizens of Tucson, 130 men, and the miners in the Walker and Weaver mines 200. The parties from Tucson and Sonora will, on their way, pass through the country of the Pimo, Papago and Maricopa Indians, who, together, will probably add 300 men to the expedition, for all these tribes are firm friends of the whites, and deadly enemies of the Apaches. Thus, the total strength, according to the agreement and calculations of the parties interested, will number 1,300 men.—*S. F. Alta, June 11th.*

TALK OF 'CHANGE.—The telegraph announces that the U. S. Senate has struck out the proposed tax of five per cent. on the gross yield of the mines, and has substituted a tax of one half of one per cent. on the exportation. Since the total production is exported, the tax as it now stands, is one-half of one per cent. on the gross yield—one-tenth of the amount adopted by the House. The total exportation of gold and silver from San Francisco for the current year will be about $60,000,000, and the tax upon it will be $300,000.—*Ib.*

It is said that a son of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to come forward as a candidate for Blackburn at the next general election.

NEWS FROM KOOTANAIS.

From Mr. John B. Robinson, one of the owners of the Occidental block, who left here for Boise last March, and left there on the 8th inst., we gather a few additional particulars from the Kootanais country. There is great excitement in Boise about the Kootanais mines, and miners and packers are buying up horses and starting across to the new diggings. It is said that the mines are very good and extensive, and chiefly surface diggings. Mr. Robinson saw some of the gold, which was coarse and dark, resembling the Cariboo gold. The principal miners on the Kootanais, so far, are Frenchmen, and it looks well for the genuineness of the mines, that every Frenchman in the Boise country has left or is leaving for that region. The distance from Boise to Kootanais via Lewiston and Fort Colville, is thought to be 800 or 900 miles. Numbers of the packers who left Cariboo last fall for Boise, have determined to come back to Victoria this fall and commence packing through from Hope or Yale to Kootanais in the spring. Among those who expressed this intention were Messrs. Maddingley, Patterson, Thompson, Jack Humes, and several others well known to Cariboo men. These men are convinced the distance from the Fraser to Kootanais is much less land travel and a much easier way, besides avoiding the danger of hostile Indians, which is great on the other route. The Boise miners seem to entertain great confidence in this new mining country. Mr. Robinson saw several packers at Walla-Walla who were loading their trains for Kootanais, intending to push through as quickly as possible. They informed him that they had seen men right through from the mines who had encouraged them strongly to go at once.

Boise.

Mr. Robinson informs us that when he left Boise the supply of water in the mines had greatly failed, and men were only able to work in the creeks. It will be almost impossible to bring sufficient water in, owing to the great expense, and although there is about 25 or 30 miles square of mining ground, it would not last more than two or three years, and would not pay to bring in the required amount of water. Business of every kind in Boise was greatly overdone and the towns along the route are very dull. Mr. Robinson was also through at the quartz mine, about 60 miles from Idaho city; he says there seems to be good quartz lodes there, and several errastras are at work, and quartz mills in process of erection.

Cattle for Cariboo.

Mr. Thos. Manifee, of Williams Lake, started about 10 days ago from the Dalles with 300 head of cattle for Cariboo Beedy (since arrived) had also started with a large drove some days before.

KOOTANAIS.—We have pleasure in laying before the public to-day a great deal of interesting and highly important news about the Kootanais mines. Mr. Robinson, to whom we are indebted for valuable information about that country, is so satisfied of the genuine nature of the "excitement," that he expresses his readiness to start at any moment. The general impression in Boise and vicinity, is that there will be a "rush" of the rst magnitude in that direction shortly. Already miners are leaving the latter region from all quarters, and making their way northward across the British Columbia boundary. The neighboring government has with praiseworthy energy, already taken steps to open up and improve the trail from Hope to Kootanais, and as this route is undeniably by far the shortest and easiest to the new mines, the main bulk of the travel will undoubtedly pass through this city, to the great benefit of our merchants and the community generally. A contemporary yesterday had a petty attempt to disparage these mines, doubtless because it failed to obtain the important and reliable news in regard to Kootanais, which was lately laid before the public by the COLONIST.

A PAIR OF WISEACRES.—There are two geniuses who have commenced the rather difficult art of criticism—and who are ambitious to fling a few ungrammatical as well as unmeaning expressions at the head of the COLONIST. When these "croaking critics"—the "cracked" contributor of the *Chronicle* and the would-be "Mentor" who makes a convenience of the evening paper—combine to withdraw their support from the COLONIST, our carrier trembles at the consequence of being relieved, especially in Mercator's case, of a bad debt of "two bits" every week. We would advise the *Investors' Guardian* man to return to "axle-grease," for literature evidently unsettles his powers of discrimination. The ambitious scribbler of the *Express*, who gives us advice, had much better let his exhausted brain recuperate itself before he again indulges in the pen. In the meantime, we pity the evening paper for being made the victim of an unmerciful joke in reprinting an article from the COLONIST, which was published a few months ago for its own especial castigation.

GOLD SHIPMENTS.—We are requested by Mr. J. D. Walker, Manager of the Bank of British Columbia, to state that the sum of $78,000 was all the gold that came down from Cariboo to the bank last week. The mis-statement arose from one of the bank escort having stated that they had brought down the gold on the first trip of the Otter, whereas it had been left for assay at New Westminster, and only came down on Saturday night, when it was again reported. This occurrence shows the necessity, which we have previously urged, of some official account being kept of the quantity of gold received from the mines; were this done, not only would such mistakes as the above be prevented, but the country would be benefitted by the full product of the mines being known, it being generally believed that a large proportion in private hands is brought down without being reported.

THE NEW MINING REGION.

From the Lewiston *Golden Age* Extra we make the following extracts from letters received at Lewiston with intelligence from the Kootanais mines up to May 25th. Mr. A. E. Riddles, writing to Hill Beechey, from Wild Horse, or Kootanais Creek, says:

There are at this date operating on this creek, with a certain prospect of fair success, thirteen companies, viz., Clark & Co., Stone & Co., Donahue & Co., Baboon & Co., Fisher & Co., O'Donald & Co., Cuddy & Co., McCarris & Co., Cuddy & Co., Pilaire & Co., Moran & Co., Robinson & Co., and McMurray & Co.

A majority of them are able at present to do but little in consequence of the high water. For several days past the creek has been very high, but last night it commenced falling, and probably in a few days will be down to a fair stage.

Flattering prospects have also been obtained in the hills along the creek, and quite a number of hill claims have been located, which will doubtless prove highly remunerative. A few persons have conveyed the dirt from the hill to the creek upon their backs, and rocked it out realising fair wages.

Fisher & Co. are engaged in constructing a flume and ditch, for the purpose of bringing water on the hill. When that work is completed several hill companies will commence work. The gold obtained, both on the hill and on the creek is coarse, beautiful, and of a superior quality. It passes here readily at $18 per oz. All the gold is smoothly washed, and mostly found on the bed-rock, which is slate and quite uneven. Upon hard, smooth bed-rock but little gold is found.

The largest prospect I have seen obtained from one pan of dirt weighed $1. The largest I have seen obtained from one shovel of dirt weighed twenty-five cents. Larger prospects, however, have been obtained from the same quantity of dirt. Nuggets have been frequently found on the creek weighing from $2 50 to $7 75. I think I can truthfully say there is not a claim on the creek but what will pay from $10 to $15 per day to the hand.

It is quite possible that richer diggings will be discovered on other streams after the freshet. All the streams are at present so high that it is utterly impossible to prospect them.

I would not be much surprised if, during the present season, claims would be located in this country, and not very remote from this point, that will almost rival Cuddy's $500 claims. It is indisputable that gold exists in paying quantities on tributaries of the Kootanais and Columbia.

Quite a large party left here, near two weeks ago, for the purpose of prospecting on the head waters of the Kootanais and Columbia. The prevailing opinion here is, that they will discover rich diggings.

There are here, mining and prospecting, about 400 men, and the number is being daily increased by new arrivals. But few pack trains as yet have arrived, and the consequence is, 'grub' is scarce. The following are the prices here, and the supply of each article, I assure you, is quite limited:—Beans, 80c. per lb.; dried apples, $1; sugar, 75c.@90c.; coffee, 90c.@$1 25; bacon, $1 25, and none in camp until within a day or two; flour, 50c., and the most inferior article that was ever manufactured; it was packed from Colville and Hell Gate; gum boots would sell readily at from $25 to $30 per pair; there are none here, and God only knows when there will be.

This camp is about 70 or 75 miles above Tobacco Plains, 200 or more miles from Hell Gate, and about 300 miles from Lewiston. From Tobacco Plains no supplies can be obtained, unless it be beef—which, by the way, is selling at 25c. per pound.

A Gold Commissioner is expected in a short time, and until his arrival the laws enacted by the miners will be observed."

Tim Lee, writing to Hill Beachy, says: "I will state as briefly as possible what I know about the mines. At present the mining is confined to two creeks (Kootanais, or Wild Horse and Finlay creeks), situated about 75 miles apart, both of which empty into the Kootanais river. The first prospecting I done was on Finlay Creek and the head waters of Columbia, which are only about 6 miles apart. I have got as high as 30 cents to the pan on Finlay Creek, and think that it will be one of the richest creeks in this part of the country. At present the water is too high to prospect to any advantage.

On Kootanais Creek, where I am at work, there are about 150 miners, who are all doing well. There are several old Shasta county miners here, one of whom (Jack Fisher) showed me a couple of nuggets taken out of his claim, and weighing respectively $50 and $78.

I have rocked out as high as $60 per day, until the high water drove me out. In fact, friend Beachey, I have no hesitation in saying that these mines are good and permanent. The gold is on the coarse order, and of good quality. It is taken readily at $18 per ounce by traders. There are only two traders here at present, and four miners, with as good an appetite as I have, would eat them out in one month.

There are certain parties who went back from here to Walla Walla, and from what I can learn from people coming in, they are giving a very discouraging account of the country. Now, to my certain knowledge, those parties never stuck a pick into the ground while they were here; in fact, they are not on the work—at least, I never knew them to work, and I happen to have known them for some time."

James Crow, writing to James Hays, under date May 24th, says: "The mines are situated on a creek, a branch of the Kootanais river. I should judge there are about 150 or 200 miners in and around this part of the country, the most of them engaged in opening claims, and a few at work in the bank, making from $6 to $10 per day. The gold is coarse and of a fine quality. * * As to the country, as a mining country, I am not prepared to say, as it will take from four to six weeks to develop that fact."—*Oregonian.*

MAXIMILIAN AND THE MEXICAN THEATRES.—In Mexico city there are three theatres, the largest of which will seat 2,500 persons. The Emperor Maximilian intends, however, to have a grand opera, a comic opera and a ballet; and the municipality, besides granting an annual subvention of 200,000 francs, have sent a special agent to Europe to engage artists.