

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1865.

NO. 25.

## THE BRITISH COLONIST

PUBLISHED  
EVERY MORNING.  
(Sundays Excepted,  
AT VICTORIA, V. I.

TERMS:  
Per Annum, in advance ..... \$3.00  
For Six Months, ..... 1.50  
For Week, payable to the Carrier, ..... 25  
Single Copies, ..... 10

Advertisements inserted on the usual terms.

## THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Is furnished to Subscribers for \$6 a year; \$4 for six months; \$2.50 for three months, payable in advance.

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### VANCOUVER ISLAND POLITICS.

After all the relevant and irrelevant remarks that have been called forth on the Crown Lands Debate—after all the wrangling and quarrelling, and disgraceful personalities that have been indulged in at various times during the recent discussion—it may be well, now that the fight is over, to consider and examine, not only the result but the character of the debate which has just closed. To go briefly into the first question, we find that the Home Government have asked the people of the colony to pay some £6,000 a year as salaries for the Governor and the principal officials, and in return for this outlay have agreed to give to the inhabitants that property known as the Crown Lands. The answer of the Assembly to this proposition is not exactly such a one as Mr. Cardwell will probably desire, but it could not, consistent with the interests and the independence of the country, be any less exacting in its demands. The Legislature, while asserting the exorbitant charges made on the colony, declares its willingness to bear the burden, provided if Union of the colonies does not take place within a given period, the people of the colony shall have a certain control of the large expenditure demanded. Nothing could be fairer than this, and although differing considerably from the letter of the Home Government's proposition, the terms of the Assembly's acceptance cannot, we think, be reasonably refused. There are virtually three courses open to the Imperial authorities in the matter. They can get over all responsibilities of the Crown Lands by bringing about a union of the colonies before the termination of next year; if this is not accomplished they can either grant the people the power to elect their heads of departments or the power to reduce the civil list. If the conditions be not accepted by Mr. Cardwell then the onus rests with Her Majesty's Government, and not with the Legislature of this colony. But we think, all things considered, the proposition will be acceded to.

However much we are satisfied with the carrying out of those views we have enunciated in reference to the Crown Lands and Civil List, we cannot close our eyes to some very crude and injurious ideas that have been promulgated during the recent rather tedious debate. It was asserted by the Speaker, and echoed by a few unthinking members both of the Assembly and the press, that politicians "on this continent"—meaning, we presume, America—bore a character akin to the "sport" or the blackleg; and there was evidently a desire that the inference should be drawn that every person in Vancouver Island who takes a very active interest in politics is nothing better. Independent of this disgraceful and unmanly method of trying to injure one's political opponents by something very like malicious slander, there is an ignorance exhibited in the matter by the Speaker and the small fry who applaud his obsolete conservatism, that does not, we will be bound to say, find its echo in any other deliberative assembly or public journalism in the world.

Above all the sciences that have ever existed that of politics is undoubtedly the most important, whether we look upon it in its effects on the individual or on the human race at large. It has from the earliest days embraced within its folds the leading minds of all countries; for to what nobler task could man apply himself than to that of preserving the morality, the safety, the peace, and the prosperity of his fellow-creatures? Yet in our Speaker's eyes the person who endeavors to do this on the American continent renders himself liable to be termed a blackleg. Pitt

was a politician, and it is shrewdly suspected that Burke indulged in the same "gambling" propensities; but we do not find that Lord Macaulay or any other essayist or historian describes these men as "sports." Lord Palmerston is a jocular politician and understands the art of bunkum as well as any stump orator in America, but we never heard that he had cheated at cards or drugged a horse. Probably the atmosphere of England is too pure for the existence of the latter peculiarities, and that it is only in new countries that politicians and pickpockets are synonymous. Well, Daniel Webster was a native of the American continent and Henry Clay was equally unfortunate in his birth, but although each of these men was a notorious politician we fail to find in their public or private careers anything very disgraceful. The late Abraham Lincoln was a politician, yet his life would contrast favorably with that of the purest of England's statesmen. Seward, Sumner, and a host of other great men on the American continent are politicians, but we cannot see anything in their lives that would lead us to classify them with blacklegs. Canada has her politicians—her Browns and Macdonalds—her Galts and her Dorions; but we do not hear of any of these individuals laboring in the chain-gang. On the contrary we find them conferring great benefits upon the Canadian people—devoting, in fact, their time and ability to the best interests of the country. To come from the world-wide men of politics down to our own narrow circle, we find men in our midst laboring hard and continuously for the public good—men belonging to that wretched class—the pariahs of civilization—the new country politicians. We see them day after day attending the House of Assembly—day after day giving their labors gratuitously to the country; and because they are a little more sincere, a little more determined, probably a little more disinterested than some others, they are glibly classified as gamblers, blacklegs, and charlatans. When we hear the cry of "stop thief!" our attention is not always distracted from the person who gives the alarm; for we are conscious that it is an old and stale game with professionals to direct public pursuit in a wrong channel. When therefore, we see men rise up in the Legislature and by bold assertion or broad insinuation charge their opponents with being actuated by dishonest or disreputable motives, we are more inclined to subject their line of conduct to microscopic examination than that of the persons whom they denounce. We have been opposed on many points of this Crown Lands question to Mr. DeCosmos and his supporters, but that does not prevent our giving these men credit for honesty of intention, or for a vigorous determination to carry out what they conceive to be the best policy. Dr. Helmsken is too valuable a man in the Assembly to have his usefulness destroyed by this unworthy means of detracting from one's political opponents, and we hope in the future he will content himself in his opposition with that more respectable and more powerful weapon which he so skilfully handles—the shaft of sarcasm. As for the ribald trash that so frequently appears in the columns of our contemporaries in reference to our public men and their motives, it is simply a disgrace to English journalism, whether we look at it in a moral or intellectual point of view. Although we have singled out Dr. Helmsken in the present instance as being guilty of what we conceive to be a grave breach of public decorum, we do not attempt to overlook the fact that Mr. DeCosmos, Dr. Tolmie, and various other members are just as frequently chargeable with the same offence. It is certainly time that both the press and the Assembly should endeavor to cultivate a little higher tone in their animadversions.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC DEBT.—In a letter by Mr. Fessenden to Mr. Erinoe, member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the following official statement of the public debt of the U. S. is given:

Aggregate debt bearing interest in coin \$1,087,556,438 89; interest, \$63,433,121 54. Debt bearing interest in lawful money, \$508,570,952 44; interest, \$29,598,770 41. Debt on which interest has ceased, \$355,570 09. Legal tender debt bearing no interest, \$433,150,569. Fractional currency, \$24,096,913 93. Total, \$2,153,735,444 26; interest, \$93,131,901 86. Amount of unpaid requisitions, \$136,190,000. Amount in the Treasury, \$10,252,608 16. Total, \$125,847,041 84. The amount of suspended requisitions abroad includes all paid requisitions for every branch of the public service. It is stated at the Department that at this date, February 13th, this amount has been reduced about nine millions of dollars; also that the Department intends next week to commence paying the army of the Potomac.

CHEAP CLAIM IN CARIBOO.—A full interest, unincumbered, in the Phoenix or Idaho claim, Lowhee Creek, Cariboo, was sold by Daniel Scott on Saturday for \$20.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

### LATER FROM CARIBOO.

We learn from a gentleman who arrived on Friday by the Alexandra from Fraser River that Mr. Heath had reached Harrison Landing from Cariboo, having left Williams Creek on the 10th.

Mr. Heath reports that things were beginning to look encouraging at the mines, and the belief of the miners is general that the yield of gold this season will far exceed that of any previous one.

THE WATSON CO. were said to be taking out about 700 ounces a day.

In Stout's Gulch two or three claims were taking out good pay, and the ground in this gulch is believed to be rich. Preparations were being made by various other companies to go to work.

The pack trains it was asserted would be able to get in by the 10th of June.

An association of traders were buying up the trading establishments on the Creek. Harrison, Dodd, and other dealers had sold out to them.

The weather was mild and pleasant.

Good surface diggings are reported to exist near Fort Sheppard. Some miners were about proceeding there.

(From yesterday's Pacific Times.)

TELEGRAPHIC.—Messrs. Libby & Burrage, telegraph operators, left on the Reliance on Wednesday to establish an office for the International Telegraph Company at Yale.

THE LIGHT SHIP.—We understand that the contract for constructing the Light Ship to be placed at the mouth of the river, has been awarded to Messrs. Bolton & Cook of Victoria.

The consecration of the new Church at Sapperton will take place on Monday next. The services will commence at 11 a.m., and sermons will be preached in the morning by the Rev. the Lord Bishop of Columbia, and in the evening by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Columbia.

CUSTOMS' RECEIPTS.—For the week ending April 22nd—Duties, £3,123 9 10; Harbor Dues, £31 0 6; Head Money, £63 16 0; Tonnage Dues, £111 3 0; Gold Export Duty, £30 14 5; Fines, £8 6 8. Total, £3,368 10 5. Number of passengers entering at this port during same period, 319.

The steamer Enterprise arrived down on Saturday, at 5 p.m., bringing a few passengers, and a Cariboo express.

(From the Columbian.)

LATER FROM CARIBOO.—The steamer Reliance arrived from Yale, last evening, bringing a number of passengers, and an express for Dietz & Nelson, with Cariboo dates to the 20th inst. The news from the diggings is quite devoid of incident. Market prices have undergone little or no change since last quotations, flour remaining firm at 75c. Parties are rushing in provisions in order to avail themselves of the present high prices. Mr. Alexander Douglas McInnes was married to Miss Annie Roddy, on Williams Creek, on the 16th inst., by Rev. D. Duff, Presbyterian missionary. The weather was mild, and considerable mining going on. Travelling is now very good all the way down, as will appear, indeed, from the circumstance of the trip being made from Williams creek to here in eight days—excellent time at this time of the year. We are informed that the steamer Enterprise was expected to commence her trips to-day, connecting with Barnard's stages to Cariboo.

THE HOPE-SIMILKAMEEN ROAD.—Only 26 miles of the road is open yet, the contractors having given up the job. We understand the government will carry on the work, for which purpose Mr. Moberly will probably proceed up to-day. There are now a very large number of animals and much freight waiting to go over as soon as the road is open. It is not unreasonable to assume that the road will be open in ten days from this date. We would strongly urge upon the government the importance of pushing forward the work with all possible dispatch, inasmuch as an important trade is now waiting for ingress, while trains on the other side would be driven to Colville by any considerable delay.

FROM KOOTENAY.—We understand that a letter has been received from Mr. Dewdney, dated Similkameen Valley, in which it is stated that new and rich hill diggings have been struck on Wild Horse Creek, from which large nuggets have been taken. Great numbers of people are making their way up the Columbia towards Big Bend, in boats and canoes.

CHERRY CREEK GOLD AND SILVER MINING COMPANY.—Perhaps it is not very generally known that a rich gold and silver quartz lead has been discovered on Cherry Creek, and that a company has been fully organized to work it. Assays of the quartz have been made here, in Victoria and San Francisco, varying from \$500 to \$1,400 to the ton. The indications would point out the district in question as abounding in rich quartz leads, and men of practical experience have given it as their opinion that the discovery is one of the most important yet made in the colony.

HOPE SILVER MINING COMPANY.—This company is quietly and unostentatiously prosecuting the work. The tunnel is now in 500 feet. There are yet 40 feet to run before reaching the point where it is calculated the lead will be struck. The amount already expended by the company will fall little short of \$30,000.

FRESH BEACONS.—The steamer Caledonia will remain over till next week, when she will be employed by the Harbor-master in

placing a new set of beacons at the mouth of the river.

THE YALE-LYTTON ROAD.—Mr. Spence, the government superintendent of this road, came down by the Reliance last night. He informs us that the road is now in good condition for travelling, and 20 teams are regularly running over it.

### LETTER FROM LEECH RIVER.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.  
[PER BARNETT'S EXPRESS.]

LEECH RIVER, April 26, 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST, SIR.—After an absence of some four or five months from Leech I have again returned to that gold region, and having spent some time in looking up and down the river, I propose furnishing your readers with a few items of what has been done, and is still doing, for the benefit of the country, as well as individuals, in this vicinity.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The improvements that have taken place since I left here are truly astonishing, and instead of a few huts and tents being seen scattered along the banks of the river, Kennedy Flat assumes the appearance of a thriving mining town, and were the streets well cleared of brush and stumps, would make quite a picturesque scene. The town site having been laid out and the streets marked, would it not be well to appropriate a couple of hundred dollars for this purpose? Stege's two-story hotel makes a fine appearance, and the proprietor deserves the support of the travelling community. Moyses & Co., Mara & Co. and Rory McDonnell have all made extensive improvements since the fall. Last, though not least, may now be heard the din of the anvil and hammer, the latter being plied lustily by the hands of Mr. Coles, the "village blacksmith." At Bacon Bar Mr. Ward has made a large addition to his store.

AGRICULTURE.

By the look of things we shall be in no need of vegetable shipments from Victoria. A couple of young men, formerly engaged here as hunters, have taken up a ranch about a mile from the Forks of Sooks and Leech, and are now busily engaged planting potatoes, cabbages, etc., for the summer market. Besides this some small gardens may be seen between Kennedy Flat and Bacon Bar.

MINING.

Very little has as yet been done towards actual mining, although several companies have been busily engaged in getting out lumber for fluming, etc. The water still continues high, and to-day we have had quite a heavy shower of rain. The claims, by right, should be laid over until the first of next month, or at least another fortnight, as it will be impossible to work sooner.

The Cameron Co. have at last got water into their ditch, and for the past two days have been sluicing, but with what result I cannot say. The Chinamen who lately purchased two shares in the Fisher Co. are doing very well in the bank—washing from two to three dollars per day to the hand. From here to Bacon Bar no work is going on. The Bacon Bar Co. are at work in the gulch, about a mile from its mouth, and have taken out some excellent nuggets, weighing from \$5 to \$10. Some few companies are at work at the North Forks, and I believe are doing well.

THE "SECRET" DIGGINGS.

These diggings have turned out to be situated a few miles above the Devil's Grip, in a gulch running northwards. As to their being or having been secret, is all humbug; the fact being that very few men had ever prospected so far up. The story about their being "tracked," and of their obtaining goods from some highly imaginative brain, (of which there are quite a number here) as there are no colored merchants on the creek. However, I have seen and conversed with a couple of the so-called secret fortune hunters, and am quite satisfied that good diggings are to be found there, and the gold is of an excellent quality. As soon as the snow is off, there will be a great deal of prospecting done around that quarter.

### THE COMMISSIONER.

A great many enquiries are being made as to whether we are to have a gold commissioner this year, and if so, who it is to be. There certainly should be some one here to record claims at the opening of the mining season, but after that I am of opinion that a visit about every two weeks from some of the well-paid officials of Victoria, would be quite sufficient for all the business there is likely to be done. I understand that a requisition goes in to-day for the appointment of a well known Victorian to the office, but as I have not seen it, I am unable to say who are the signers. There can be no doubt that the gentleman alluded to is quite competent to fill the Gold Commissioner's or any other chair.

### THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

Extensive preparations are being made for celebrating the 24th of May. Venison, potatoes, etc., have been subscribed by the storekeepers, and any contributions of rum, ale, etc., from town, will be thankfully received; communications should be addressed to Mr. Walsh, secretary pro tem.

### MARKETS.

Flour, \$5 75 @ \$6. Beans, 10c. per lb. Bacon, 30c. Butter, 12c. Sugar, \$1 per seven lbs. Whisky, 75c.

I know of nothing more at present to write about, but you can depend on my keeping you well advised on all matters of any interest to your readers.

NEW LIBRARIAN.—Mr. E. T. Coleman, artist, has been appointed librarian to the Mechanics' Literary Institute. He will assume his new duties to-day. There were twenty-four applications for the situation,

## NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

### Colonization Movement.

On the 17th inst., a deputation from the British North American Association, amongst whom were the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Wharncliffe, Lord Nass, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaid, M.P.; Sir J. D. Hay, Bart., M.P.; Hon. William Napier, Sir Minto Farquhar, Bart., M.P.; Edward Watkin, Esq., M.P.; R. W. Crawford, Esq., M.P.; James Caird, Esq., M.P.; John Chapman, Esq., M.P.; Wm. Newmarsh, Esq., F.R.S.; Robert Benson, Esq.; Charles Bischoff, Esq.; J. W. Maclure, Esq.; J. M. Grant, Esq.; Irving Hare, Esq., etc., etc., waited upon Mr. Cardwell, at the Colonial Office, with reference to the colonization of the British territory in the north-west of America. The Earl of Shaftesbury having introduced the deputation several gentlemen addressed Mr. Cardwell with reference to the importance of opening up of the vast territory lying between Canada and British Columbia. It appeared that the late colonial minister, the Duke of Newcastle, stated in his place in the House of Lords, on the 2nd July, 1863, that arrangements, whereby the vast territories lying between the Canadian boundary and British Columbia, and known as Rupert's Land, or the Hudson Bay territory, would be colonised, would be made between the Colonial Office and the Hudson Bay Company.

Mr. Cardwell in his place in the House of Commons, on the 2d July, 1864, had also stated in effect, that propositions had passed between the Colonial Office and the Hudson Bay Company, with a view to the acquisition of that portion of the territory fit for settlement, and to the foundation of a colony, and that he had written a despatch to Canada renewing the offer made in 1857, namely, that Canada should take the responsibility of founding the proposed new colony and asking should that proposal be declined, that the views of Canada with respect to the whole question should be given. Since this statement the confederation of the existing British North American colonies has been proposed, and in the resolutions passed by the colonial delegates at Quebec, provision is made to consider the future admission into the confederation of any new colony established in the northwest. But in the meantime, it would appear that nothing deserving the name of a government exists in the populated portion of the territory known as the "Red River Settlement," and the Sioux Indians (who three years ago committed a horrible massacre of American citizens) driven out of Minnesota by the United States troops, threaten and alarm the white inhabitants of this British territory, and may commit outrages of a deplorable character. Again, the natural result of a want of adequate protection to life and property, or, in other words, of a "government" together with the

decision whether the Crown should or should not govern, and thereby secure and encourage the extension of population and industry, had led to great dissatisfaction, and to a desire on the part of many for annexation to the United States. And further, the country is being "squatted" upon by other than British subjects, with whom it will be most difficult hereafter to deal, and who become more and more, and every day, the nucleus of future international disturbances.

The deputation, under these circumstances, considered it proper to place the colonial minister in possession of these facts, and ascertain from him whether any prompt measures are to be adopted whereby a Crown colony can be established, and the risk, disorganization, and danger to life and property be avoided.

Lord Wharncliffe stated that having been all through the country he could bear testimony to the absolute want of government at the Red River settlement. He believed he was correct in stating that there was but one post along the whole frontier line between Lake Superior and the Pacific pointing out where the United States territory ended, and the British territory commenced, and he was therefore of opinion that the step towards the colonisation of the north-west country was to establish its limits by actual survey.

Mr. Cardwell stated that he was as deeply interested in the colonisation of the north-west territory as any of the gentlemen forming the deputation could be, and reminded them that in the recent proposed confederation of the British North American provinces provision had been made to embrace in the scheme the Red River colony; and that as soon as the arrangements now in progress with the Hudson Bay Company, and by which, if carried out, the territory now bearing the name of that corporation would doubtless be thrown open for settlement, would be completed, provision would then doubtless be made to elect the Red River district into a Crown colony, as a first step to its admission into the contemplated confederation of all the British North American provinces. He had not yet received definite information from the Government of Canada on the subject, but he hoped that the whole matter would shortly be put in train for a final and satisfactory adjustment.

The deputation then thanked the hon. gentleman for his courtesy and withdrew.—*European Times.*

REPORTED STRIKE IN THE CAMERON CLAIM.—A letter from a reliable person on Williams' Creek, dated April 20th, says: "The miners are coming in pretty fast from below. There is really nothing new here. The Cameron Company have again struck it very rich—4 oz. and \$9 to the pan! The work is fine, but cold. Business increasing."

SALE OF HORSES.—James Cardwell, Esq.'s saddle horse "Pet" was sold on Saturday by Daniel Scott, with saddle and bridle for \$125. A fine little gray mare was sold for \$90, and a rather dilapidated looking "framer" for \$30.