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Weekly British Colonist.

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Weekly British Colonist

DAVID W. HIGGINS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

THE BRITISH COLONIST

Is now the only newspaper published in British Columbia that receives telegraphic dispatches. Its value as a disseminator of information and as an advertising medium is therefore apparent. The expense attending the publication of the Colonist will be greatly increased by the war now raging in the East, and the proprietor would urge on subscribers the necessity of remitting the subscription money promptly and regularly. The date of the expiration of each subscription is legibly printed on the paper, and the cash system, which year by year, is a matter of option has now become a matter of necessity, and subscribers who may not receive a reminder will understand that their time has expired.

A LAST WARNING.

We would again remind those out-of-town subscribers who are in arrears that the time is fast approaching when their names will be removed from the list unless payment is shortly made. It is unwelcome to be obliged to pay out money for wrappers, printers' wages, paper, ink, and give unlimited credit to subscribers. In a few days the pruning knife will be applied and no exceptions will be made to the rule of CASH IN ADVANCE.

THE RECENT SAD ACCIDENT.

The deposition of the only survivor of the canoe accident, through which Mr. Robert Williams and five Indians lost their lives, is perhaps the only account that will ever be received of the deplorable event until "the sea gives up its dead." The canoe would seem to have been unsuitable for crossing the stormy sheet of water that extends from the head of Queen Charlotte Islands to the Mainland; but Mr. Williams, misled, probably, by assurances from the Indians of the perfect seaworthiness of their craft, was induced to employ it to bear him from the islands—he having previously crossed from Fort Simpson in the same canoe. It does not appear from the statement of the survivor that the wind was very strong or the water uncommonly rough. Yet the news is broken that himself the only survivor of the sad affair had the sudden shock of seeing the canoe parted in three pieces and the occupants were cast into the water. They all managed to keep their heads above the surface and hah the canoe together; but the exposure proved too much for Mr. Williams' strength. Four hours after the canoe parted, unpowered his head and offered up a prayer to his Maker, then closed his eyes to earthly scenes and sank quietly beneath the waves. The spectacle of a man standing on the threshold of the unknown world, before offering up prayer removing his hat and passing the partials uncovered, is touching in the extreme. After the parting of Mr. Williams, five of the poor Indians died one by one with prayers and songs on their lips. The survivor, clinging to a piece of the wreck, was tossed about by wind and wave, and after enduring three days and nights of exposure, was cast by the pitying waters on the rugged shore of Cape Northumberland, where he made his way to Tongass and Port Simpson and related the sorrowful tale. Than the late Mr. Williams no citizen of Victoria stood higher. Throughout the Province wherever he was known his untimely end will be received with manifestations of sincere regret and sorrow, and his wife and children in the moment of their deep anguish have the consolation of knowing that all Victoria sympathizes with them in the loss of the husband and father.

CROSSING THE RUBICON.

If the reader will take up any one of the numerous war maps he will find in the extreme northeastern corner of European Turkey a queerly-shaped peninsula, formed by the course of the River Danube, which turns off at an acute angle and for a few miles runs almost due north and then as suddenly resumes its easterly flow and falls into the Black Sea through three mouths, known respectively as the Kilia, Sulina and St. George. This peninsula is called the Dobrudscha. It is low, marshy and barren, and is not thickly populated, although it contains two or three towns of small importance. Machin is one of these towns. It overlooks the Danube and is exactly opposite the town of Ibrail or Braila, where the dispatches of last night inform us a bridge was thrown across on Monday, over which two corps of the Russian army passed into Dobrudscha. The fighting on land is represented as desperate; but the Turks were evidently taken unawares and had to fall back. The dispatches throw out the conjecture that the crossing is a feint to cover more serious work higher up the river; but the evident design of the movement was to gain command of the Danube and close it to Turkish war vessels and open it to their own. The Russians now hold both sides of that historic stream near the three mouths, and one wonders what Hobart Pasha was about that he did not protect the river with his ironclads and prevent the laying of pontoons. It is plain, now that the Russian army has begun to move, that very exciting events are on the eve of transpiring in the East.

THE GOVERNMENT MINING ENGINEER'S REPORT.

If the expectations of the Government mining engineer as to the value and importance of the copper and silver lodes at Howe Sound be realized, this country will shortly enter upon a career of prosperity and wealth that will make the pristine glories of old Cariboo pale by comparison. Mr. Harper pronounces the lode a true fissure vein 2½ feet in width, running nearly east and west, with a perpendicular foot wall. The ore he says is rich and carries a large percentage of silver; *and the lode is the richest of its character he has seen on this coast or in England.* Mr. Harper is a man of large experience, and his report will not be lightly regarded by those who have known him for years and who rely on his judgment. The granitic formation at Howe Sound is similar to that of Cornwall and Nevada. In concluding his report the engineer expresses the belief that the country between Howe Sound and Jervis Inlet will be a great mining district. Location favors Howe Sound. It opens on the sea; ships can load with ore at the mine for Swansea, and fuel is so plentiful as to be had for the taking. These are advantages the mines of Nevada and Central California do not possess—transportation to the seaboard being expensive, and fuel both scarce and dear. The wisdom of the Government in obtaining the services of Mr. Harper is already demonstrated by his report on Howe Sound.

FIRE INSURANCE.

We have in Victoria a very efficient staff of firemen, two steam and two hand engines well equipped with the best quality of hose, an unlimited supply of water with a pressure direct from the mains sufficient to throw a stream over the highest building in the city. For the maintenance of the fire brigade and the water works the public purse is largely drawn upon, and in the case of persons within the City limits who take the precaution to insure their property a special fire rate of one-eighth of one per cent. on the amount insured is levied. It is worthy of remark that years before the present facilities for subduing fires were provided, when there were but two hand engines, a supply of poor hose, and no water supply save a limited quantity in the reservoir, the premiums on insurance were the same as now. There is no other point where the distinction in Municipal law that levies on the assessment of one-eighth of one per cent. on insured property fails to reach the man who does not insure unless he owns improved real estate. If he does not insure his personal property—household goods, furniture, plant, machinery, etc.—he escapes scot-free. If, on the other hand, he owns buildings that are not insurable, he is still called on to pay the rate. The unfairness of this law must be apparent to any one who will reflect for a moment. The public, since they are called on to provide them, should reap the benefit of improved appliances for the extinguishment of fires.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

For what particular sphere in life are the public school children of the Province being prepared? If we read aright the speeches delivered at the annual examinations the chief aim of their education is to fit them for lawyers, politicians and ladies. Nearly all who address the scholars endeavor to stimulate their youthful ambition by setting a great man on a pinnacle and advising them to try and scale the dizzy heights which so many say but few reach. It does not seem to enter the mind of any one to inform the boys and girls that honors are to be gained in the lower as well as the higher walks of life—that a young man may shine in mechanics, in the arts and sciences, and that young women, by industry and neatness, may become accomplished housekeepers and valuable helpmeets of good husbands. So far as we know of the educational system of the country it is good and practical in its character; but all the boys cannot expect to be lawyers, doctors, ministers, etc.; nor all the girls to inherit money or marry brilliant men and ride in carriages.

DECLINE OF CHINA'S TEA TRADE.

By the consular report from Shanghai of Sir W. Medhurst, recently laid before Parliament, it is plain that it is not an unmixed blessing that the cultivation now going on so extensively in India will at no distant time have the effect of ousting China from her previous position as being the sole source from which Great Britain was supplied with that article, and that England in the future will be supplied from her own territory. Tea cultivation that in India some fifteen years since was regarded as an experiment is now making rapid progress, not only as to quantity produced, but as to excellence of quality. In 1875 the export of tea from that country to England had reached twelve millions of pounds, against the 212 millions of China of the same year, and the quantity produced in India has been greatly on the increase since that period. It appears India has the advantage over China in the cultivation of this commodity owing to the capital and scientific skill employed; whereas in China tea production is in the hands of the natives, many of whom are very poor, and more bent on realising on their labor than in producing a good article.

A SCENE ON THE DANUBE.—Edward King writes from Orsova to the Boston "Journal:" The current rushes by here with such velocity as one sees elsewhere only on the Missouri river in America. Nothing is more amusing than to watch the efforts of the Servians who endeavor to get over to this side in their little caique-boats, that do not look unlike the Indian's bark canoe, and are paddled in exactly the same fashion. Directly opposite Orsova arise the frowning mighty mountains of Servia, which at early morning are wreathed in folds of majestic mist, and over which, in the long May afternoons, waves of light and shadow sweep in quick succession and with magical effect. A tiny Servian village, with its Greek church, around which are grouped a few humble one-story cottages, with whitewashed walls and thatched roofs, clings to the base of one of the mountains. Away from the hamlet, on either hand, up into the yawning valleys, under the shade of the vast forests, along the edges of the frightful ravines, and by the roads which, skirting the Danube shore, lead away to other towns further down—stray hundreds of goats, with kids festively skipping about them; sheep, meditatively cropping the plentiful herbage, cattle and horses, all guided hither and yon at intervals by shepards clad in long sheepskin cloaks, and carrying the traditional crook. The scene is thoroughly pastoral, ancient; one can imagine the little church to have been there a thousand years; that the flocks have walked leisurely homeward, as they do now, just at sun down, for half a dozen centuries; that the boatmen, in their round, red skull caps, their short embroidered jackets with long flowing sleeves, their loose trowsers, with gaiters buttoned at the knee, and their girdles with knives convenient for action—have been paddling across the stream from time immemorial, and that nothing ever has happened, or ever will happen, to disturb such a peaceful scene. Yet war swept over yonder fair land opposite Orsova only last year, and may come again in a month. The Turks are abirst, the Turks are vindictive; and they know how well to use the weapons which worthy New England manufacturers have been joyfully preparing for them for many years.

THE MODERN DRAMA.—Leading Lady—"Oh, Mr. Inkling, have you a good part for me in the new play?" Dramatic Author—"I think so, my dear. There are seven changes of dress in the course of the piece." Leading Lady—"Beautiful! Then I shall make a hit in it. I know I shall."

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL NEWS.

From the DAILY COLONIST, June 27.

Examination at the High School.

Yesterday being the day set apart for the *viva voce* examination of the High School a large number of visitors were present, among whom were His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Richards, Major Drake, Hon. Joe Trutch, Mrs. Smithe, Dr. Tolmie, M.P.P., Mr. and Mrs. Beaven, Capt. Layton, Capt. Cooper, Mrs. and Miss Elliott, Mr. Boston, Mr. and Miss Fell, Mrs. Thorne, Mr. Wm. Wilson, Mr. Newbury, Mrs. Kent, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Jessop, Mr. Carmichael, Mrs. Lawson, Mr. Mrs. and Miss John, Miss Pettheat, the Misses Woods, Mr. Gore, Mr. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Grosvenor, Mr. Wymond, Mr. Barre, Mr. Wymond, Mr. [illegible]

The school closed at 11 o'clock, the session being resumed at 2 p.m. The spelling, book-keeping, ancient history, geography and mental arithmetic, in which the Misses Carmichael, Grosvenor, Elliott, Lawrence and Jessop, Messrs. Gardner, Elliott, Cooper and Jessop, and in which there was much competition, the article on the pencil was very interesting, the pupils showing that a great deal of time and attention had been bestowed on it. The Latin and Greek were pronounced very creditably, the Misses Jessop, Lawson and Mr. Gardner, passing. The Hyperbola, Euclid, Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry were very creditably done, the Misses Jessop and Lawson and Mr. Gardner, passing. The Physics, Chemistry, Physiology and Botany were very creditably done, the Misses Jessop and Lawson and Mr. Gardner, passing. The French and German were very creditably done, the Misses Jessop and Lawson and Mr. Gardner, passing. The English Grammar, Composition, Rhetoric, Logic, Moral Philosophy, Political Economy, Mental Philosophy, Chemistry, Physiology, Botany, Geology, Astronomy, Natural Philosophy, Mechanics, Mechanical Powers, Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, Optics, Acoustics, Electricity, Magnetism, Galvanism