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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 7. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1866. NO 35.

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L. P. Fisher,	San Francisco
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G. Street,	30 Cornhill, London

Prussia, Austria and Italy.

Few people, except Germans themselves, understand the real nature of the present European complication. It is easier, says the London *Times*, to sum up the accounts in the German quarrel than to strike the balance. The causes of anger, the sources of difficulty, the antagonism of interests, and even the prospects of actual strife, may all be estimated with more or less accuracy, but the incalculable elements of accident and passion intervene to obscure the result. Austria and Prussia certainly ought not to fight; if they are prudent they will yet stay the sword. But they have threatened each other so fiercely, and made such overt demonstrations of hostility and force, that it would need but one step further to lead to a clash of arms, and that step the telegraph informs us has been taken. Prussia essays to place herself before the eyes of Europe as the aggressed party. In the pretty little "bill of play," issued by Von Bismarck as a prelude to the opening of the great drama, she deliberately charges Austria with pertinaciously repudiating all her overtures for a pacific solution of their differences; with having determined upon war, and thus leaving her (Prussia) no alternative but to choose her time to begin. That circular, plausible as it may appear to the unitiated, will not stand the test of investigation. At our latest English mail dates, (May 5th,) we find Prussia calling upon Saxony to disarm, while herself, purchasing horses and munitions of war, moving her troops southward and refusing to disarm unless Austria desisted from her armaments in Venetia. This was manifestly out of the question so long as Italy was massing her troops on the Venetian border, and watching for the signal from her Prussian ally to cross the Mincio in force. "The real and permanent sources of quarrel," says the authority before quoted, "are two—Schleswig Holstein and Venetia. Prussia desires to appropriate the Danish Duchies, while Austria refuses to permit her to appropriate all the plunder that they gained in common. Austria has a standing quarrel with Italy, for Italy makes no secret of her desire to acquire Venetia. A German war would provide her with a favorable opportunity, and she is now preparing without reserve to embrace the chance if it should be offered. This attitude Austria not unnaturally resents, and so the original dispute between the two German Powers is complicated by the demonstrations of a third. The preparations of Prussia for consummating her designs on the Danish Duchies were so unscrupulously and even insolently advanced, that Austria had no alternative between submissive assent and immediate resistance. She chose the latter course. She could not protect her small army in Holstein, but she could effect a formidable diversion, and for this purpose she massed her troops on the Prussian frontiers. This was the first of the 'armaments' about which so many recriminations have been exchanged." Prussia affected to be alarmed, complained, and then did likewise. The two German Powers then wisely agreed to a mutual disarmament, which would have served for the preservation of present peace, had it not been for the threatening aspect of Italy. The Italians, on seeing that Austria was on the verge of war, at once prepared for the opportunity which her difficulty would create, and began to arm as the Prussians had done. Austria thereupon transferred her armaments from the Prussian to the Italian frontiers, at the same time explaining her position to the Prussian Government, and professing sincerity in the mutual disarmament that had been agreed upon. Prussia, still panting for the Duchies, and perceiving that if Italy declared war her own opportunity would have arrived, rejected the explanation, and stipulated for disarmament everywhere, offering with cool effrontery to disarm herself if Austria would disarm *first* with the lesser Powers. At the same time she was making the most active preparations for war, and, all things being ready, Count von Bismarck soon managed to pick the necessary quarrel with Saxony in order to secure and occupy Dresden, through which lies the Austrian road to Berlin. This little Kingdom had from the first been with the Kaiser, and boldly refused to obey the summons to disarm. Hence its invasion and the occupation of its capital by the Prussians, which we now read of. Italy could not afford to begin the war; she could only take advantage of it when it began, and so long as Austria and Prussia kept on peaceable terms, her hopes in north-eastern Italy must vanish, together with her armaments. The attitude assumed by Prussia in her aggressive alliance with Italy, is justly condemed. It was in the Danish Duchies that the real difficulty lay, and upon what justifiable grounds then could Prussia, while professedly mediating for a pacific policy, make common cause with Italy? This must of itself have created distrust at Vienna, and led to the reasonable conclusion that some concerted action had been arranged between the two powers. The Italian question, too, was a secondary one, entirely apart from the German quarrel. It was natural enough, if we set aside the unavoidable feeling of sympathy that rests with Italy in her efforts to recover Venetia, that Austria should become irritated at the demonstrations being made by Italy on her borders, without any *casus belli* having occurred; and when Austria withdrew her armaments from the Prussian borders and confined her military preparations to the confines of Italy, furnishing candid explanations to the Prussian Cabinet, Prussia then had it in her power, had she wished so ardently for peace in Germany, to have secured it, temporarily at all events. It is evident, with all their menaces, that neither of the two great German Powers desire war—the King of Prussia is particularly averse from the idea of war with a State of the Confederation, and he is supported in this by the intuitive sense of the Prussian people. The whole difficulty then might be removed by the consent of Austria to Prussian aggrandizement on the Elbe. The two great Federal powers being united on this question the minor States would be silenced, and Italy's chance would disappear. There is however a degree of international wrong in such an agreement, which, only the fear of losing her footing in Northern Italy, could probably induce Austria to assent to. The two armies numerically are about equal, but Prussia possesses the great advantage of being able to bring the major portion of her forces into the field and of being able to furnish her men with a deadly weapon known as the needle gun, while Austria will require at least one half of her army to garrison the fortresses of the Quadrilateral to contend against the 300,000 or 400,000 Italians of Victor Emmanuel. The Italian and Austrian fleets are also of nearly equal strength. The latter, however, is principally manned by Italian sailors. Should war be maintained for any length of time these two nations must have recourse to pressure to carry it on, as financially they are already in a bankrupt condition. The Prussian Exchequer is better prepared to stand the coming drain upon it. The general feeling among Germans is that the war, if it does commence in earnest, cannot last long. Austria, although she will have the majority of the Federal States on her side, has more to lose than she can possibly hope to gain, and sooner or later must yield her pretensions in the north, or part of her possessions in the south. The rest of the world—if France and Russia will keep their promises to stand aloof—will look on in the hope that the present embroglio may terminate in an equitable division by consent of the lesser States by the two superior powers, and the abandonment of Venetia to its rightful owners, the Italians. The price of Louis Napoleon's non-intervention, it is whispered, has been already agreed upon by Count Von Bismarck, and the termination of the war may find the Rhenish Provinces under French sway.

From the East Coast.

The steamer Sir James Douglas, Capt. Clark, returned on Saturday evening from Nanaimo and way ports, with about twenty-five passengers and a small quantity of produce. One of the proprietors of this journal, who made the trip with her, reports that at

COMOX

the settlers feel themselves aggrieved for the reason that the Government neglects the construction of a trunk road from the head of the agricultural district to the steamer's landing—about five or six miles. The line of road was commenced to be laid out last year and was left unfinished, and the farmers, although anxious to contribute a good deal to the work, are reluctant to do anything towards it until the line is definitely marked out by the proper officers of the Government. They are awaiting the arrival of the Surveyor General to authorize the completion of the job. The produce of the district cannot, without difficulty, be conveyed to the steamer for market on account of such a want. A resident of the district who recently took occasion to find out, states that there are two hundred and fifty acres of land under crops—barley, oats, potatoes, turnips &c., and some thirteen hundred acres already under fence and principally set apart for hay and grazing purposes. A large quantity of hay will be saved this season and it is estimated that ten thousand dollars worth of hogs can be shipped from the settlements this year, which speaks well for so young a place. The crops, live stock and poultry, look well, and beautiful butter is being extensively made. The people only ask the means for conveying their stuff to market, to be contented. It is to be hoped that the steamer will continue to make her usual fortnightly trips at least, as it was rumored that she would confine her visits to once a month, by reason of the inadequate support received. A canoe with some men, among whom was Mr M. Reynolds of this city, had just arrived to prospect the country for coal, of which some indications had been previously met with. At

NANAIMO

the people have been enjoying themselves greatly, although business was rather dull. On Coronation Day and the Fourth of July, pic-nics with a ball in the evening, were the order of the day. The stores were closed and the town looked joyful—bunting floated from all the flagstaffs. The pic nic and ball on the former days, were largely attended. On the Fourth the Sunday Schools of the Wesleyan and Presbyterian Churches, respectively, combined and proceeded in boats to a beautiful location on Protection Island, where the children and their friends enjoyed themselves. In the evening a subscription ball was given at the Court House, which was neatly decorated and was attended by over a hundred persons of both sexes. A fire broke out on Wednesday amongst the brush, on the surface of an old coal pit, caused by the escape of heated smoke through the fissures of the pit and which has been smouldering for two years past. The external fire was quickly extinguished by a force of men from the coal mines. There is a large quantity of coal waiting for shipment and on the Nanaimo river there is a large quantity of hay ready for market. On Thursday evening, at 9 o'clock, the U S. war steamer Saranac, six guns and a complement of two hundred men, arrived in the harbor from Puget Sound and next day took on board ninety-two tons of coal, to burn it was said, with some five hundred tons already aboard, but of an inferior quality. On entering the harbor in charge of a pilot from the Sound, as we understood, she took a wrong channel—following an old Hudson Bay chart of 1852—and grounded for a short time. Fortunately, with the aid of a rising tide and a pilot acquainted with the harbor, she was got off without sustaining any injury and was moored in deep water. On Friday morning she left for San Francisco—under the charge of pilot Sabiston, sent on board by the Coal and Land Company's manager Mr Nicol. The Indian recently shot by the Constable in connection with a whiskey row, is getting better. Early in the week a coal miner, named Walsh, while in the pit, left his coat aside, containing over three hundred dollars in gold and bank notes, and a bank receipt for 900 dollars, when it was stolen—supposed by an Indian, one of whom on a subsequent day, presented some of the money for changing at the Bank. The receipt I expected to be made right, the owner having come to Victoria on the matter.

The weather in the early part of the week was very warm. At Comox, on Monday last, the thermometer showed ninety-two degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. The forests in many places were ablaze from the extreme heat. The schooner Nonpareil, on the way down from the North, was met on Wednesday last in Bayne's Sound, with a successful take of codfish on board. She reports the fish as being very plentiful around Fort Rupert. The captain conversed with one of the miners on the Stekin river, who reported rather encouraging intelligence from the diggings—one man had fifteen hundred dollars worth of dust in his possession.

On Saturday morning a large bull, purchased from Capt. Franklyn by a couple of the settlers on Gabriola Island, while being conveyed by the steamer from Nanaimo to be landed on the island, was lost. When being shoved from the deck of the vessel, to be made to swim ashore in the usual manner, the animal went down in very deep water, head foremost, and did not rise to the surface for some time. The owners were on board shortly afterwards and towed it to shore dead; it was thought from suffocation or the bursting of a blood vessel.

The settlements at

COWICHAN AND SALT SPRING ISLAND

Are looking well; the crops of which a more extended notice was given by us a short time since, promise an abundant harvest. A trip at this season of the year to the places above mentioned, for the sake of the scenery alone, would amply repay those having leisure from business, and the attention and affability of Capt. Clark and those under him at all times, would render such a trip a treat indeed. Mr R Burnaby, Mr Bland, and a few others returned by the steamer very much pleased with the excursion

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Monday, July 9.

SUCCESS TO THE "FIDELITER!"—A telegram received in town from Portland, Oregon, states that the U. S. Secretary of Treasury had telegraphed to the Collector of Customs at Astoria to permit the English steamer Fideliter to run to Portland until further orders. This virtually settles the question and establishes Portland on the same commercial footing with the ports on Puget Sound to which foreign bottoms are allowed to run and load with lumber. It appears that the Portland merchants were highly indignant at the U. S. Collector stopping the Fideliter, and immediately telegraphed a statement of the facts of the case to Washington, with the gratifying result as above stated. Following is a copy of the despatch from the Treasury Department:

WASHINGTON, July 7th, 1866.

To the Collector of Customs, District Oregon:

You will, until further advised, permit foreign vessels with cargoes for Portland to unload there under the eye of the Surveyor, and to make formal entry and pay duty at Astoria.

(Signed) H. McCULLOCH,
Secretary.

MURDER NEAR SEATTLE.—On the fourth of July, information reached Seattle that the wife of Wm. Powell, formerly a seaman on board the U. S. S. Saranac, had been murdered at Alki Point, where she resided with her husband. A party left for the spot, and discovered a gun lying in the portico, the floor of which was stained with blood. On entering, the body of the woman was found lying on the floor, and her husband was lying with his head on her breast apparently asleep. The party went outside to consult together, when footsteps were heard within, and suspecting that the murderer was about to make his escape, the party re-entered, but found the husband still pretending to be asleep. He was bound and taken to Seattle. At the inquest it was shown that the woman was shot through the left temple, producing immediate death. The prisoner had often threatened to kill her.

SALE OF THE "NANAIMO GAZETTE" PLANT. The plant of the Nanaimo *Gazette* was offered for sale at public auction on Saturday by Mr McCrea at his rooms. A large crowd of persons attended, and considerable interest was manifested at the somewhat novel proceeding. The Auctioneer having stated the terms to be "cash, cash, cash!" at the fall of the hammer, the sale proceeded. The first bidder was Dr Trimble, who offered $300; Mr C. W. Wallace bid $400; Dr Trimble, $500; and the final offer was from Mr Wallace, $600, at which price the hammer fell, notwithstanding the persuasive eloquence of the Auctioneer, who assured one newspaper gentleman that the press was "just the thing to print poetry on," and informed the Doctor that the "type could be all made up into pills." It is understood that the plant will be sent back to Nanaimo, and that it will be employed in the publication of a new weekly paper.

THE BEGBIE DEPUTATION.—Messrs Launmeister and McLaren, the deputation appointed by the Cariboo miners to wait on Administrator Birch, and lay a statement of their grievances before him, arrived on the Alexandra. The deputation received a kind reception from Mr Birch, who has promised to return with them to Cariboo and ascertain what steps are necessary to furnish relief.

BRITISH COLUMBIAN ITEMS.—Placer diggings, believed to be very rich, have been discovered on the Douglas Portage, 23 miles from Port Douglas town....The Davis company, at Cariboo, have decided to allow their colored partners, who were cut off by Judge Begbie's award, to participate in the product of the disputed ground....The anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence was appropriately celebrated at New Westminster on the Fourth....Customs Receipts for week ending Saturday, June 23rd.—Duties $3 891 96; harbor dues $149 04; head money $41 00; tonnage dues $349 00; [illegible] $80; fees $1. Total $4,432 50. Number of passengers 41....The telegraph steamer Moodie, from this port, reached New Westminster on Friday morning and sailed for the North on Saturday.

THE GALAXY.—The May numbers of this new illustrated magazine have been placed upon our table by Mr W. E. Loomis, north-east corner of Sansome and Washington streets, San Francisco, the local agent. The Galaxy is published fortnightly at the office, 39 Park Row, New York, for the very moderate price of three dollars for the volume of twelve numbers, or twenty-five cents a number. It has met with a flattering reception from the press and the public, and if the same standard of literary merit presented in the first two numbers is preserved, the magazine will take a prominent place among the serials of the day. Among its contributors are Anthony Trollope and Mrs Edwards.

FROM YALE.—The steamer Onward, Capt, Irving, returned from Yale yesterday, bringing an express for Dietz & Nelson. The water in the Fraser was rising very fast, and had reached to within five feet of extreme high water mark. There is no later mining news. The Fourth was celebrated in grand style at Yale. Salutes were fired morning, noon and night, and, in fact, all day long, while there were horse races, foot races, with a variety of games and other amusements, and a free luncheon in Mr Sutton's saloon and Mr Barry's saloon. In the evening there was a magnificent display of fireworks, all of which were heartily participated in by the entire community.—*Columbian.*

CHALLENGE CUP.—A silver subscription cup was shot for on Saturday by nine members of No. 2 Company, at 200 and 300 yards. Sergt Widdowson was the winner on this occasion, having scored 19 points in 5 shots at each range. Sergt. Woollacott won the second prize with 18 points. The cup has to be contended for on the first Saturday in each month until the same member shall have won it three times, when he will be entitled to hold it.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Alexandra, Swanson master, arrived from New Westminster on Saturday evening bringing a few passengers and a small amount of treasure. The news was anticipated by telegraph.

THE "FIDELITER."—The passengers by this steamer reached Portland on Saturday, so says a telegram. The vessel was detained at Astoria pending the settlement of the navigation question. The run was made in 22 hours.

THE "JOSIE MCNEAR."—A telegram received yesterday from Portland states that this steamer, concerning which serious apprehensions were felt, was at Astoria on the 4th inst.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE COAL MINING CO.—The Leonede, chartered by this Company, arrived at New Westminster on Friday evening, and would clear for the North on Saturday.

CAMPING OUT.—We hear that the Rifle Corps will shortly go under canvas at Beacon Hill for a week, for the purpose of becoming acquainted with camp duties.

Nova Scotia.

A Nova Scotia paper says:—

"A wide-spread feeling of quiet, calm, determined, dangerous hostility to Confederation, and to our new fledged Constitution-tinkers, pervades the public mind, not only in Annapolis, but in all of the Western Counties, from Lunenburg around to Hants. Even those few individuals who favor the Scheme, refrain from exulting over the success of their Leaders in the Assembly—they are awed into silence as they witness the stern, uncompromising determination of the great mass of the people to resist, if need be, to the death this contemplated treacherous, traitorous encroachment upon these rights as freemen. In Kings, Hamilton and Bill are regarded as traitors to their constituents, and are execrated accordingly. And in Lunenburg County the imbeciles, Jost and Kaulback, have already been burned in effigy.

It is well that the mind that led and controlled public opinion here at the time of the Papineau Rebellion, and guided Nova Scotia safely through the dangers of that eventful period of her history, is still ready to instruct the people as to the proper steps to be taken now, when demagogues are trying to undermine our most cherished institutions and sap our liberties.

All eyes, here in the West, are turned with hope toward our sister province, New Brunswick. A dissolution of the House there appears to be inevitable, and when that comes if the people of that Province are found true to themselves, all will yet be well, and our Nova Scotia traitors may live to bitterly rue the days when they dined at Governors' tables or fingered Canadian gold."