

BRITISH COLONIST--SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. 5.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1864.

NO. 34.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE QUESTION.

Every individual is said to have a skeleton in his house—every country we know has some peculiar night-mare of evil spirit. France has been more or less subject to the horrible influence of the red republican and the Bourbon, England is in occasional dread of the "great unwashed" spectre appearing in her political arena, the United States has been terrified into rebellion by the perpetual planks of the "irrepressible negro," and Vancouver Island, not to be behind, has also its member of the political chamber of horrors—the Civil List. There used to be, in olden times, certain periods of the year when supernatural sprites were wont to visit the haunts of man, and there are still superstitious observances in some parts of the world to appease the wrath of the demon, or conciliate the less terrible of the unearthly visitors. The Vancouver Island ghost has its stated visits, which are not so much guided by periods of time as by the cycle of occurrences. When the estimates come round, the Civil List stalks into our legislative chamber and demands its dues. The members, eager to get rid of its horrid presence, promise to pay it when the Crown Lands are made over to the colony, and the spirit departs. Whether there is just now some astronomical conjunction, that puts the "times out of joint," we cannot say; but certifies the appearance of his ghostly twin in the same session, is something not only out of all precedent, but actually unfair and unbecoming. It had virtually the same satisfaction from the House of Assembly the present year that it had in former years; but when it now traverses the mighty deep, and glides into the presence of Her Majesty's Secretary for the colonies, it receives but a portion of its yearly sustenance, and is told, in a cavalier manner, to go back to the Vancouver Island Assembly for the remainder. Hence the untimely visit of this diabolical spectre. The unfortunate Speaker, like Luther of old with another spirit, wrestled stoutly with the thing yesterday, and concluded, by his "recommending" resolution, that he had at length got rid of it for the session; the members commenced to feel relieved, and were indulging in the dream of a respite from Parliamentary labors; their legislative brows had begun to relax; May's Parliamentary Practice, Blackstone's Commentaries, and Chitty on Contracts, were carried under arms wrapped from gesticulating, and every thing betokened a closing of the school. A message, however, came down yesterday from the Governor. The members were hastily called together; and for the third time the Civil List

stultified its former action, and implored the colony in a vote on the Civil List, when the other part of the bargain—possession of the Crown lands—is still in the hands of Her Majesty's Government. We are not by any means justifying the House in their refusal of those lands even on the grounds of an increased Civil List; but we cannot see, under the circumstances, how it is possible the House should be obliged to pay a portion of that Civil List towards which they have never paid a farthing before, without any equivalent whatever. If Mr. Cardwell desires that retrenchment should be made in this part of the Government service, by dispensing with a few of the officers, he is taking the proper course to effect that object, and make the Crown lands a bargain that should not be despised. One of two of the officers, we believe, might advantageously be given up. If, on the other hand, it is, as we presume, a mistake of the Colonial office, we feel convinced it will be immediately rectified, by His Excellency placing the matter before Mr. Cardwell. The officials will only have to "wait a little longer" for their salaries—that is all.

SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

The examination of Mrs. Wilson Brown's pupil took place on Friday, the Rev. E. Cridge questioning the scholars in the various branches of learning—Geography, Arithmetic, English Grammar, History—ancient and modern—Scripture History, and the manufactures and products of different countries. The readiness and correctness with which the questions put were answered told greatly in favor of the care bestowed by Mrs. Brown and her assistants in the culture of the youthful mind. In Geography, that branch which tends so much to enlarge the minds of the young, the scholars showed the aptness which may be said to be a peculiar characteristic of colonial children. The prizes given for music, (which were three in number) open to all three classes, were competed for by the whole school. Too much praise cannot be awarded Miss Macdonald, the teacher of music, for the proficiency of the young ladies in that pleasing art, every touch of the tender little fingers giving unmistakable proof of training by a masterly hand. Though many may be highly gifted in that way there are comparatively but few who have the power of imparting it well to others. We were much pleased with the performance of a duet played by the little Misses Lucy and Ada; their ages we are informed are respectively six and seven years. The prizes, which were given out by Dr. Helmecken, the patron of the school, were distributed as follows:

For progress in all branches of learning, and general good conduct.

First Class—1st prize, Miss Francis; 2nd prize, Miss Irvine.

Second Class—1st prize, Miss Helen; 2nd prize, Miss Minnie Jaggerman.

Third Class—1st prize, Miss Y. Street; 2nd prize, Miss Branks; 3rd prize, Miss Emma Parker.

A great many presents were made to other scholars, who were considered deserving. Dr. Helmecken made several short and pithy addresses to the various recipients of prizes. He gave also a handsome prize case to Miss Francis, and Miss Parker, on his own account, and handed over to Miss Louisa Macdonald, a beautiful Photographic Album, as a token of esteem from the scholars over whom she presides.

After the examination was finished, the forms were specially examined, and the buoyant young spirits indulged in a dance. The air of youthful beauty was far greater than we thought could be gathered in our town, and the sunny little faces, and neat pretty dresses, made the scene one of the gayest. Several mamma's, aunts, and sisters, were present, and seemed much pleased with the progress made by the children.

JOTTINGS FROM CARIBOO.

FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT.
CAMBROXTOWN, WILLIAMS CREEK,
18th June, 1864.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—For dullness, Williams Creek, now would beat Victoria. The bed rock drain not being finished, causes great dissatisfaction, and more than a third of the men on the Creek are unemployed. Long faces, and woe-begone, melancholy objects hanging about the saloons and houses, are to be seen from morning till night, every one hoping that a month more will change their luck. Still, several claims are paying well. The Aurora Co. took out 300 oz. this morning. Wake up Jake, Steele's, and the Ericsson are taking out good pay. Hart and Co., in Marysville, pretty well. The Butcher claim, on Lightning Creek, at Van Winkle, took out one piece weighing \$511, which is now on view at Van Doran's, in Barkerville. Of course, the "Butchers" are in high glees. The Discovery, Capt. Evans, is doing well.

On the 17th instant, G. Daniels, a Cornishman, at work in the Prairie Flower, met with his death by the accidental falling of a pump which was being lowered down the shaft; his death was instantaneous. What made it the more shocking was that every precaution against accident had been taken, but the frost prevented the ropes from "bitting." An inquest was held the same day; verdict accidental death.

Judge Begbie, with Mr. Matthew, and the two Mr. Trutch, arrived on the Creek on the 13th instant.

The last two days have been warm and genial, refreshing to the health and spirits of all, but up to the 16th June, snow and frost prevailed.

There is very little illness on the Creek. Provisions are plentiful, and for Cariboo, at moderate prices. If the bed rock drain were finished, all the claims would be at work, and the men all employed, and consequently discontent would be at an end.

The reading room was opened in Camerontown on the 7th inst., and from the numbers who avail themselves of the privilege of reading all the papers and books, at a moderate charge, we suppose it will answer.

STRIKE ON KEITHLEY'S CREEK.

We have been favored with the following extract from a letter written by a miner on Keithley's creek to a gentleman in this city:

"Dear Sir—I am happy to inform you, my boy, that the Grotto Tunnel Company have struck good pay in their shaft, just now down. This is our second shaft this spring—the first 30, this 40 feet; we missed the center of the shaft in both shafts, one being on each side only 25 feet apart, but fortunately we have enough of it in our shaft to prove it to be good; the pay is 7 or 8 feet deep, and from 2 to 4 bits to the bucket, and that on the very edge of the channel. But we are smothered with water, so we cannot take 5 buckets of water to one of dirt. We believe this to be one of the most lasting claims in Cariboo, and the boys think that they can make 20 or 30 dollars per day when right at work. We now have to rig a pump operation yet, and God knows what, before we can get a cent. Interests are up to \$3,000, and no one to sell. We hold the key to the ground, so we are safe from jumpers, but at present 'tis like the possession of a diamond to a poor man. The weather here is fine, no rain yet. Chinamen here by the hundred; trade slow, but little news. I think times will be brisk this summer. We have a post-office now at the Forks of Quesnelle, so our letters will go direct and no humbug."

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I was the owner of the boat he sailed from Victoria to the day before his departure from that place for San Juan Island; and as I was thoroughly acquainted with the character and abilities of the boat, having tested her in a voyage to and from the Bentick Arm, and having crossed and re-crossed the Gulf of Georgia, and the Queen Charlotte Sound, in very heavy weather, I have to accord my testimony in favor of the impression expressed in the enclosed paragraph, that foul play has had something to do in that sad affair.

I have therefore, first to state, that the character of the mate who had command of the boat for Roberts, was far from being a good one.

Secondly, Had the boat been capsized, her mast would have been found standing in her, when picked up—which was not the case—

"This I know, from the fact that it was so tightly fitted in the step, which, if it rested, and through the thwart, through which it passed, that without manual aid it could not be removed. And lastly, the depth of her false keel gave her such a hold in the water, that any ordinary squall could not capsize her; in addition to which, her sails were light, and tidily ballasted."

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THE NORTH END OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Its Geography—Climate—Timber—Minerals—Native, etc.

From a gentleman who has just returned from a lengthened residence on the northern end of this island, we obtain the following interesting description of the country lying round Kookemo Sound:—

Kookemo Sound is situated on the west coast of the island, about 18 miles south of Cape Scott, the northern extremity. It is divided into three main arms, one running due east, one to the south-east, and one commencing about 20 miles up the Sound, and running west-north-west. These arms are 10, 10, and 25 miles long respectively, starting from the head of the main Sound. Numbers of rivers empty into them, but are mostly shallow, and blocked with fallen timber. At the entrance of the Sound, on the north side, is Quatseno Bay, about one and a-half miles in extent, from which a narrow arm runs back eight miles, widening at the extremity into another smaller bay. At the head of the east arm, about 30 miles from the coast, a trail runs across to Fort Rupert, a distance of 12 miles. There is also a trail from the head of the south-east arm, to Ki-a-kut, on the coast, about half way between Cape Scott and Nookla Sound.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY.

The country from Cape Scott, extending down below Kookemo Sound, is extremely mountainous and rugged, many of the hills being at such an altitude as to be covered with snow throughout the year. The mountains are densely covered with heavy timber, chiefly hemlock, to the tops, except in the cases of the loftiest peaks, which are covered with snow. Narrow valleys are found along the banks of the large rivers, but very heavily wooded. The only level land to be found in the vicinity, is between the head of the east arm and Fort Rupert, through which the trail crosses. From Kookemo, half way across, the land rolls gently; the remaining half is cedar swamps, and beaver meadows.

TIMBER.

The principal timber to be found in this portion of the island, is hemlock, which is found in large quantities. The wood is comparatively useless for any other purpose than firewood. Further inland, among the mountains, there are large clear cedar trees, averaging between four and six feet in diameter, and some reaching eight feet. There are also cypress, inland, round the lakes. White and red pine are to be found all round the Sound, interspersed through the hemlock. Some of the pines reach a great size. Clumps of alder and small maple are likewise to be found, but of little value, except for firing. One of them manufactures their wooden eating bowls out of the latter.

MINERALS.

In addition to three or four seams of promising coal, which crop out of the ground, but have not been mined, several veins of copper have been discovered. One of them is at a place called A-c-la, which has been slightly prospected, has every indication of being rich. Quartz veins abound in the vicinity of A-c-la. Excellent limestone is to be found in different parts of the Sound. Our informant, who is an old miner, has washed on most of the streams and bars for gold, but never got a "color."

THE NATIVES.

The Indians residing on the Sound are a people of timid race. They have been much troubled by the Ki-a-kuts and Fort Rupert tribes, who have from time to time ponced upon them and thinned their numbers. There are now only two tribes on the Sound—the Kookemo and Quatseno, the former numbering about 300 in all, and the latter only 40. There was formerly another tribe named the Coup-ones, numbering 60 to 70, of whom but two adults, a man and a woman, remain. The whole tribe was butchered a few years ago by the Fort Rupert and the Naa-puts Indians. The Kookemo and Quatseno are very quiet, and seldom have an opportunity of getting intoxicated. They never strike one another, but if enraged they talk loudly, and one of the party puts an end to the dispute by jumping into a canoe and paddling to another camp and representing that he is in a violent state of indignation. Their diet is fish and roots; during summer they procure venison and bear meat. They trap a few leaver and martin, but as a rule get very few furs and skins, as they are afraid to venture far from home.

MODE OF FISHING.

During the month of April, when herrings are spawning, immense numbers are secured with a sort of rake, consisting of a long rod with from 36 to 40 spikes of wire driven into the end, about an inch apart. An Indian takes his station at the stern of the canoe and works the rake straight down, raising it again at the bow, and shaking the herring into the canoe. They also procure the mackerel itself by sinking hemlock branches in the water, and so soon as they are sufficiently covered with the spawn they are taken up and dried. The spawn is then rubbed off, and after the leaves have been taken out, it is washed in fresh water and eaten.

SHORT-STAYED POLICY.—The proprietor of the salmon fisheries being about to ship a schooner load of salt, etc., to his new station on Mud Bay, near Point Roberts, applied to the British Columbian Government to be allowed to clear at that port, and ship direct to the station. His request was, however, refused, and he was compelled to take his schooner all the way up to New Westminster, enter and clear at that port, and come nearly half the way back again, thus making a trip of one or two days occupy probably as many weeks. Truly this is "developing resources" with a vengeance!

LATER FROM CARIBOO.

We have been favored with the following from Mr. B. Greenbaum, who left Williams Creek on the 20th June:—

ERICSSON CO.—This claim was paying as largely as ever. Our informant saw the men wash out 502 oz. for one day's work.

WELSH CO.—The claim adjoining the above was still paying well.

AURORA CO.—This claim keeps steadily paying a very large amount.

WAKE-UP-JAKE CO.—This company have had the lead in the old shaft, and have commenced sinking a new one.

THE FOUNTAIN HEAD CO. and Parkinson Co.—Two claims on McCallum's Gulch, have up to the present time, been ground sluting, and will commence washing this week.

The BUTCHER CO.'s claim on Lightning Creek was paying from 100 to 200 ozs. per day.

The Discoverer Co.'s claim also on Lightning Creek was paying as well as usual.

MISCELLANEOUS.—A great many claims were in full work and many companies were prospecting. The Bed Rock Flume Company have commenced working up from the Black Jack Tunnel to meet the part of the flume previously laid in the upper part of the creek. The weather was very fine and warm. Business was rather dull. Two droves of cattle were met, one of 300 at Van Winkle, and another of 100 head at Cook's Ferry, both bound for Williams Creek. Wm. Cunningham was buried at Soda Creek last Sunday. His wife and mother-in-law returned to Williams Creek on Monday. A great many pack trains were on the road to the upper country; also many ox-teams going to Soda Creek. The new wagon road from the Mouth of Quesnelle to Williams Creek is to be commenced this month. A good many men were waiting to go on the work. The country is very dry from Soda Creek down. The roads are all in excellent order. Our informant heard that three men had died of mountain fever on their way up.

GRANT AND LEE COMPARED.—The New York World in reviewing the Virginia campaign says, with a good deal of justice, "the annihilation, of the qualities of the two marked men leading the armies, that thus far our army has shown more steadiness, the enemy more mobility. Grant has been cool and inflexible, Lee fertile and dashing. The manoeuvring in Friday's battle was all on the side of Lee, who evinced a readiness of resource and an easy promptitude in the handling of his troops which reflects credit alike on his generalship and the never failing vigor by which he was checked in all of his battles. A commander who so many times during the day hurled a heavy and concentrated mass of troops against his foe at distant and unexpected points, with a success which outstripped the counter concentration by which they were repelled, and which enabled him to dictate and control the movement of his adversary, and not to be repeated massing must have weakened the exposed, has displayed an inventiveness in manoeuvring and a skill and promptness in execution which prove him a great master of one branch of the military art."

On the other hand, General Grant's quality (and it is one of the highest) is an unconquerable tenacity of purpose. He is a soldier who cannot be shaken or daunted; whose imperturbable coolness cannot be ruffled by the most unexpected and threatening incidents. Instead of losing poise and getting into a flutter when this or that part of his line seems breaking and about to give way, he is incapable of believing its possibility, even though it be taking place before his eyes. A General who is made of this staunch stuff cannot easily be beaten. A defeat in battle is often a moral rather than a physical result; heavy fighting tends to bring on, on one side or the other, a moment of wavering or discouragement; and then an army succumbing rather to these feelings than to a physical impossibility of prolonging the contest. If it fits on with dauntless steadiness, in the face of discouragement—and still more, if it can never know the feeling, its superior morale may prove an overmatch for the other side, which may be overtaken by that sudden quailing which is the turning point of fortune. General Grant's dogged and indomitable tenacity, and his utter incredulity to the existence of danger is an earnest that he will not be disconcerted by the most unexpected manoeuvres, nor yield, nor allow his army to yield, to a sudden and disastrous surprise.

Lee, with his superior readiness and fertility, has never given evidence of this stubborn and invincible persistence. His is the mobility and the dash of the wave; not the firmness of the rock. His courage, like the good man's wrath, subsides with the going down of the sun. It was so at Antietam; it was so at Gettysburg; it was so again last Friday after the great battle of the Wilderness. In a preliminary engagement he is buoyant and hopeful; but when all his forces have been brought up and he has handled them like a master through the hours of a long day, his overstrained faculties become relaxed after so much brilliant and fruitless endeavor; lassitude and loss of ardor fill the night—very likely a sleepless night—with gloomy forebodings, and he has no stomach for renewing the fight next day. The more phlegmatic and imperturbable Grant, whose insensibility to danger has not allowed him to be wrought up to a high pitch of excitement, does not sink into exhaustion when the day's fighting is over, and is ready to enter on the next day's work with a mind which "bates no jot of heart or hope." This is a matter of mere temperament; but something akin to it has been possessed by nearly all the great commanders. They have slept soundly on the night before and the night after the most momentous battles—a certain indication that they possessed that strength and steadiness of the nervous system which does not, as in the mere man of thought and genius, wear itself out in self-consuming excitement.

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That the Governor, according to Mr. Cardwell's despatch, is not authorized to pay out of the Crown revenue, any but the two important functionaries mentioned, there is not the slightest doubt. No member of the House could make that document read otherwise; and we are, therefore, not surprised that His Excellency has refused to take the responsibility, according to the resolution of the Assembly, of paying the remainder of the Civil List out of the proceeds of the Crown lands. Those officials—the Chief Justice, Treasurer, &c.—Mr. Cardwell's despatch distinctly states were to be left in the hands of the Legislature, the "provision for their remuneration" to be made "in any way and from any source which might seem most appropriate to them." That Mr. Cardwell, or at least his subordinates in the Colonial office, do not understand the question is, we think, evident; and perhaps some portion of their ignorance may be attributed to the phraseology of the famous resolutions of February. One thing, however, is certain, the House cannot go back on the action it has already taken. The Colonial revenue cannot be appropriated for paying any portion of the Civil List, unless the Crown Lands are given to the Colony. The Duke of Newcastle's offer last year to make over these lands with their proceeds to the people, with the stipulation that the Colony should provide for an increased Civil List was not accepted, and therefore the matter rests as before—the Crown being responsible for the Civil List. It is not our purpose to go into the question of what should in the abstract constitute the Crown's responsibility in a Colony under an irresponsible Government—whether the Attorney General, Treasurer, &c., are officials for their own special benefit, or for that of the Crown—the question as it at present stands, is whether the House should

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PROFITS OF MAKING TURPENTINE.

We have before us the circular of a Portland, Oregon, firm, manufacturers of turpentine, resin, pitch, &c., whose rapid success is a striking exposition of the profitable nature of the business. The principal proprietor in the firm commenced business about two years ago, with we understand but \$50 in his pocket. He began collecting the pine gum and manufacturing the turpentine, and gradually got on till now he has a fine establishment, and is worth some \$20,000! This beats gold mining, and should encourage parties to engage in a similar pursuit in this island, where as we have frequently pointed out, great advantages for the business exist. The country is covered with fir, from which the turpentine is obtained, and which is known to contain it in considerable quantities, and the price the article commands here is most remunerative. The present retail rate for spirits of turpentine is \$3 per gallon. In a previous issue we gave a few particulars of a manufactory already established in South Saanich, the proprietors of which have every prospect of great success, and there is abundant room for many such undertakings, with a ready demand for all they can possibly manufacture.

The New Wool Croc—Sheep-shearing has just finished in the vicinity of Victoria, and in some cases the crop has been already disposed of. Several of our principal growers have sold their clip to a Victorian purchaser for 12 to 15 cents per lb.—an extremely low figure, when the price in England at last advertisement, was 60 cents.

THE FATE OF ROBERTS.

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I was the owner of the boat he sailed from Victoria to the day before his departure from that place for San Juan Island; and as I was thoroughly acquainted with the character and abilities of the boat, having tested her in a voyage to and from the Bentick Arm, and having crossed and re-crossed the Gulf of Georgia, and the Queen Charlotte Sound, in very heavy weather, I have to accord my testimony in favor of the impression expressed in the enclosed paragraph, that foul play has had something to do in that sad affair.

I have therefore, first to state, that the character of the mate who had command of the boat for Roberts, was far from being a good one.

Secondly, Had the boat been capsized, her mast would have been found standing in her, when picked up—which was not the case—

"This I know, from the fact that it was so tightly fitted in the step, which, if it rested, and through the thwart, through which it passed, that without manual aid it could not be removed. And lastly, the depth of her false keel gave her such a hold in the water, that any ordinary squall could not capsize her; in addition to which, her sails were light, and tidily ballasted."

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EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir, In your contemporary's issue of the 21st May, the enclosed slip directed my attention to some facts in relation to it:—

"THE FATE OF ROBERTS.—At San Juan Island, an impression prevails that Roberts was murdered by his two companions, who then upset the boat, and sent her adrift, after they were taken across to the other side in an Indian canoe. This impression arises from the mysterious manner of the Indians in the vicinity, who seem indisposed to talk over the matter, when questioned by the whites."

I was the owner of the boat he sailed from Victoria to the day before his departure from that place for San Juan Island; and as I was thoroughly acquainted with the character and abilities of the boat, having tested her in a voyage to and from the Bentick Arm, and having crossed and re-crossed the Gulf of Georgia, and the Queen Charlotte Sound, in very heavy weather, I have to accord my testimony in favor of the impression expressed in the enclosed paragraph, that foul play has had something to do in that sad affair.

I have therefore, first to state, that the character of the mate who had command of the boat for Roberts, was far from being a good one.

Secondly, Had the boat been capsized, her mast would have been found standing in her, when picked up—which was not the case—

"This I know, from the fact that it was so tightly fitted in the step, which, if it rested, and through the thwart, through which it passed, that without manual aid it could not be removed. And lastly, the depth of her false keel gave her such a hold in the water, that any ordinary squall could not capsize her; in addition to which, her sails were light, and tidily ballasted."

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN MORRIS.

The man who imagined himself wise because he detected some typographical errors in a newspaper has been trying to get a peculiar view of a rainbow.

PROFITS OF MAKING TURPENTINE.

We have before us the circular of a Portland, Oregon, firm, manufacturers of turpentine, resin, pitch, &c., whose rapid success is a striking exposition of the profitable nature of the business. The principal proprietor in the firm commenced business about two years ago, with we understand but \$50 in his pocket. He began collecting the pine gum and manufacturing the turpentine, and gradually got on till now he has a fine establishment, and is worth some \$20,000! This beats gold mining, and should encourage parties to engage in a similar pursuit in this island, where as we have frequently pointed out, great advantages for the business exist. The country is covered with fir, from which the turpentine is obtained, and which is known to contain it in considerable quantities, and the price the article commands here is most remunerative. The present retail rate for spirits of turpentine is \$3 per gallon. In a previous issue we gave a few particulars of a manufactory already established in South Saanich, the proprietors of which have every prospect of great success, and there is abundant room for many such undertakings, with a ready demand for all they can possibly manufacture.

The New Wool Croc—Sheep-shearing has just finished in the vicinity of Victoria, and in some cases the crop has been already disposed of. Several of our principal growers have sold their clip to a Victorian purchaser for 12 to 15 cents per lb.—an extremely low figure, when the price in England at last advertisement, was 60 cents.