

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Saturday, February 20, 1869

THE Alabama claims appear as far from settlement as ever; and, as we predicted a few weeks ago, the international knot will be handed over to the Grant administration to untie. The American Minister, Mr. Reverdy Johnson—who seems throughout to have been actuated by a sincere desire to bring about a proper understanding between the two governments upon all questions in dispute,—has signally failed. The protocol of the treaty to which he was a contracting party meets with the disapprobation of his country; and the Senate of the United States has withheld, or will withhold, its approval of the basis of agreement. In the pacific utterances of Mr. Johnson the world has ample assurance that President Johnson and Mr. Seward are anxious to close the debt- and creditor account of the civil war, and hand the Government over to their successors with every account balanced. That they have failed to do so, has been no fault of either Lord Stanley or Lord Clarendon. Every concession that could in honor be made was granted by the British Ministry. A first protocol was unsatisfactory to the American Government. It was amended to meet their views. The second protocol is spurned by the Senate, which threatens to impeach the American Minister, and would undoubtedly do so but for the fact that his term of service is drawing rapidly to a close. By the terms of the protocol each Government is to appoint two commissioners who shall agree upon a fifth as an umpire. If the commissioners fail to agree the arbitrator decides the claim, unless two of the commissioners desire that the head of some friendly Government shall act as arbitrator, in which case it is wholly withdrawn from the operation of the commission and the two Governments must select such friendly sovereign, or if they do not the claim is barred. Such is the gist of the protocol, and to an unprejudiced mind what could be fairer than a proposition to settle by arbitration the disagreement? But the Americans decline to submit the whole question of claims against both Governments by the citizens of each to arbitration. They decline to acknowledge that British subjects have any claims against the American Government that can be produced as offsets to the Alabama claims. They say, 'We are the claimants. We alone are the aggrieved parties. Instead of our bill being merely for the vessels destroyed by the English pirates, amounting to only ten or twenty millions of dollars, it should be for the value of the entire commerce which these privateers swept from the seas. If England pays merely for the vessels actually destroyed and retains the vast profits she has secured by driving all freights into British bottoms, grasping all our navigation and retaining it up to the present time, she comes out of the entire affair with a net profit of hundreds of millions of dollars.' The reader can easily perceive whether such a line of argument if carried into practice must inevitably lead. Great Britain would be held responsible, not alone for the actual damage inflicted by the Confederate cruisers that escaped from her ports, but for the entire expense to which the United States was put in prosecuting the war on land and sea after Great Britain had recognized the belligerent rights of the Southern Confederacy. This seems very much like the bargain which the white hunter proposed to the red-man. "Now shall I take the turkey while you take the crow, or will you take the crow while I take the turkey?" It is difficult—impossible—to predict what will be Grant's line of policy on this important matter; or, indeed, on any other. He has never yet declared his policy or his principles, and even the political party whose eagles he carried to victory in the late contest, are beginning to think that they have caught a Tartar in the man who in desperation they selected as their standard-bearer without knowing aught of his political convictions. It is

to Grant that the destinies of the Republic will be entrusted for the next four years; and he will soon be called on to decide whether, in the further discussion of the Alabama claims, the demands of his Government will be of so preposterous a character that the sword alone can arbitrate; or whether he is disposed to leave the question for settlement in the hands of the best men of both countries.

Tuesday, Feb 16

PROTECTION OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS AT ALASKA.—A bill has been introduced into the United States Congress to the effect that "all other persons, except the native inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George and of the Aleutian Islands, are prohibited from killing fur-bearing sea animals or seals upon the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and all persons are prohibited from using fire arms in the taking of such animals, and from killing them otherwise than in accordance with the rules and practices of the Russian American Fur Company prior to the acquisition of said island and territory by the United States. And the assignees and successors in interest of the Russian American Fur Company shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities possessed and enjoyed by the Russian American Fur Company upon the said islands of St. Paul and St. George, for the term or period of thirty years; provided that the said successors in interest of the Russian American Fur Company shall, at their own proper cost and expense, and without any charge whatever upon the Government of the United States, or of the Territory of Alaska, furnish and supply the native inhabitants of the said island of St. Paul and St. George, and of all the Aleutian Islands, extending from Kodiak to and including the island of Atou, with all the necessaries and comforts of life which the Russian American Fur Company and the Russian Government were in the habit of furnishing said inhabitants, including food, clothing, fuel, lumber, instruction in the useful arts, education and religion, as fully in all respects as were enjoyed by them at any time while under the government of Russia—the true successors of the Russian American Fur Company, and the proper performance of their obligations, from time to time, to be determined by the President of the United States; provided further, that in no case shall the said native inhabitants be paid less for services and labor rendered to the successors of the Russian American Fur Company than they were accustomed to have and receive while under the government of Russia; and the importation and sale to said inhabitants of intoxicating liquors of every description whatsoever, unless for medicinal purposes, is strictly prohibited." The San Francisco Alta calls this an attempt to throw the fur business into the hands of Hutchinson & Co, and denounces the attempt as inequitable.

STAMPSHIP OPPOSITION.—It is whispered that Mr Jacob Kamm, principal owner of the steamer George B. Wright, is negotiating at San Francisco for the purchase or charter of two or more splendid steamships, the property of the defunct North American line that up to a few months ago waged a vigorous opposition to the Pacific Mail Company on the Panama route. The North American Company own three fine ships, viz: the Oregonian, Nevada and Nebraska, all large, new, staunch and beautiful vessels. It is said to be Mr Kamm's purpose, if successful in obtaining possession of them, to place these steamships on the Northern route where they would undoubtedly command a large share of the lucrative carrying trade.

ADVERTISING AGENCY.—We have received a very handsome little brochure being the annual list of Messrs. Hudson & Menet, the New York Advertising Agents. The pamphlet contains a well written essay on advertising which will well repay perusal, and short descriptions of the extent resources, and natural productions of California, Oregon, Washington Territory and British Columbia. A list of all the newspapers published on the Pacific Coast and Canada, is also appended. The little work evidences throughout a keen appreciation of advertising facilities, and the best mode of utilizing them, the results of great experience.

MR. JOHN STUART MILL, residing now at his usual winter seat at Avignon, has entered into a correspondence with Mr. McLaren, a sister of Mr. Bright, the wife of the Member for Edinburgh, concerning the civil rights of women, and takes occasion to regret that he has found among women less generous compassion for the poor creatures so cruelly wronged in Jamaica than he expected. Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal of Prussia, who was so cordial and courteous to Mr. Bright at Court, is known to have expressed, at the time of the Westminster election, her interest in it, and her regret at Mr. Mill's defeat.

ON the 31st Dec., Disraeli celebrated his sixty-third birthday, and two days before, Premier Gladstone completed his fifty-ninth year. Mr. Cardwell, the new Secretary of War, was born in the same room where the Premier first saw the light, five years after the latter's birth.

ARRIVALS.—The ship Golden Age, from Rio, in ballast, arrived yesterday morning for a cargo of lumber. She will load at Moody's mills on Barrad Inlet.

"COUNTING CHICKENS BEFORE THEY ARE HATCHED."—The Washington correspondents are counting the San Juan chicken as American property, before the process of incubation has fairly commenced. The New York Herald correspondent says:—"The San Juan difficulty is being somewhat discussed in official circles, and if the treaty on the subject is of the character supposed, it may be regarded as a complete backing down on the part of Great Britain. The San Juan controversy has been the subject of diplomatic correspondence for nearly fifty years, the question involved being as to what constitutes the boundary line. In 1846 a treaty was concluded fixing the boundary line as westward along the forty-nine parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel separating the Continent from Vancouver Island, and easterly through the middle of the sill channel and of the Fuca Straits to the Pacific Ocean. A controversy grew out of the wording of this treaty, England contending that Rosario Straits was the channel referred to, and the United States holding that the channel alluded to was the Canal de Haro. If the English construction could be maintained, it would give them all the islands of the Haro Archipelago including the Island of San Juan. This was stoutly refused by our Government, and finally led to the appointment of a Commission to adjust the difficulties. The Commission, after deliberating several months, was unable to agree, and from that time, 1857, to the present day, there has been a joint occupation of San Juan, and several times hostilities seemed inevitable. If, as supposed, the English Government has receded from its old position on the subject, it will be seen that we acquire undisputed right to a large slice of territory."

ALL LOVERS OF ENGLISH SPORTS will be glad to hear that the hounds brought into the Colony during the past year by the Messrs. Cornwall, of Ashcroft, have turned out a great success. They hunt the coyote, a small sort of wolf, which ranges over open country, and which is comparatively numerous in the Thompson River valley. Although at present the "pack" only contains three hounds, they have had several excellent days' sport, and have twice killed. The first time they ran right into the coyote in the open, after a splendid run of two hours over a capital country; and the second time, after a quick thing of about fifty minutes, they ran the coyote to ground among some rocks. He was, after some time and with difficulty, bolted, and got about one hundred yards start, but the hounds ran into him within half a mile. The hounds came from the kennels of Mr. Lawrence, in Monmouthshire, and being from comparatively so rough a country, are admirably suited to British Columbia. When the pack increases in number, coyotes will have to look to themselves or emigrate.

AN ENGLISH STEAM FIRE ENGINE.—The Deluge Fire Engine Company of this city, we understand, contemplate procuring a steam fire engine from London if sufficient encouragement be extended them by Government, the insurance agents and property holders. The result of the recent successful trial of the Tiger Steam Engine so completely outdid all that was ever effected by hand engines as to literally leave no comparison between the two classes; and we are not surprised that our citizens have commenced to contemplate with a feeling of insecurity, and alarm the possibility of a conflagration occurring—and a calamity of the kind might occur at any moment—and finding them dependent upon but two engines, one of them worked by hand. The English steamers took the prize at a trial in London with two American steamers, and the cost (Mr. Wadlington has written out) is one-third less than those furnished by any other country.

BREECH-LOADING CANNON.—It is reported that the British Government has determined to abandon the use of breech-loading cannon in the East Indian batteries, and the artillery service has accordingly been supplied with the ordinary muzzle-loading bronze pieces. One of the reasons given for this change is, that the mechanism of the breech-loader is too complicated for the peculiar service of the Indian army. In case of a sand storm, particles of sand and grit are found to insinuate themselves in the breech screws in a manner which seriously interferes with the efficiency of the piece until it has been taken to pieces and cleaned. Another objection is that the use of low charges with breech-loading cannon is impracticable, and the new gun is almost useless for the purpose of dropping shell over a hedge or embankment, as is necessary in fighting guerrillas.

THE season is approaching that period when farmers and horticulturists provide themselves with the requisite seeds for the crops of the coming summer, and great care is required to sow those that will yield a due return for the labor expended in their cultivation. In this respect we can confidently recommend the assortments of Messrs. Jay & Bales, who make the choice of seeds their special study and care, and can therefore be depended upon for only furnishing those germs that are likely to produce well.

Legislative Council.

Monday, Feb. 15th, 1869.

Present—Hons. Robson, Ball, Bushby, Walkem, Hamley, Helmcken, Carrall, Wood, Rinz, Alston, Humphreys, Sanders, Trutch, O'Reilly, Crease, Davis, Holbrook, Drake, Pemberton, Havelock, Young (presiding.)

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Hon. Robson—To move that a drawback of 75 cts. per barrel be allowed on flour manufactured in the Colony from foreign grain on which duty had been paid.

Hon. Holbrook—To move that a reward of \$1000 be offered for the discovery of a good practicable road through the Selkirk Range to Kootenay, not to exceed 2,500 feet at the highest level.

THE ANATOMY BILL.

Came up for consideration in Committee of the whole hon. Bushby in the chair.

Hon. Holbrook opposed the first section of the bill as he intended to oppose all the others; no School of Anatomy existed, hence the bill was not required. The determination of the medical men to force the bill through in the face of the objections raised against it, was apt to create suspicions that the doctors had received an imperfect education before they came to the Colony, and wanted to improve themselves at the expense of the feelings of the colonists.

Hon. Crease approved of the principles of the bill, but thought that by modifying the provisions of the first clause, the bill would pass the House without difficulty; he would therefore move as an amendment that subjects available for dissection be confined to the bodies of criminals who had undergone the extreme penalty of the law.

Hon. Robson supported the amendment; he admired the broad view taken of the subject by the hon. Attorney General who had no objection to be dissected after death; he thought the hon. and learned member would form a most interesting study while undergoing that process, particularly when the brain formed the subject of the investigation, that brain whence had issued so many important public measures. He (hon. Robson) however, objected to the bill as a most cruel and unchristian measure, and one that was likely to raise a serious outcry throughout the Colony.

Hon. Carrall could not understand why the only members who exhibited any antipathy to the bill should be the hon. gentlemen from New Westminster which he presumed from the peculiar opinions expressed by the representatives in that House, must be moribund. The number of subjects available under the amendment were wholly inadequate, and would in no way secure the objects of the bill. The remarks of hon. Holbrook were nothing but manding sentimentality. The doctor had no personal interest in the bill; any advantage they might derive would be entirely reflective; he had been present at many operations in this Colony of a very difficult character, and he was sure if he could have refreshed his memory by anatomical practice, he would have gone to them with far more confidence.

Hon. Davis—The bodies of criminals as granted by the amendment would not suffice for the purpose of public instruction. He was sure if any hon. member met with an accident, requiring an operation, he would prefer having it done by a medical man who had the advantage of recent practice by dissection. The conditions of the bill were such as obtained in all British Colonies, and would be a source of congratulation to all who came to our shores, in the knowledge that good medical treatment was always available. Gentlemen forgot that new modes of operation were being constantly introduced, and it was proper that surgeons should be able to practice them.

Hon. Helmcken did not know many people whose feelings were hurt by the thoughts of having their relatives dissected after death; he did not think many people cared any thing about it. If any such feeling had existed in former ages it was owing to the material character of the religion which then prevailed. So far from the peculiar sanctity with which hon. members insisted, the remains of dead aborigines were regarded, they were in the habit of eating one another in some countries and the flesh was exposed for sale like ordinary meat; even the Indians on this island were formerly in the habit of eating one another, and it was possible they did so yet. We were going to establish schools where reading and writing were to be taught, was the education to end there? What are we going to do with our children when they reached the ages of 15 or 16? What was the use of educating them to take their education and themselves out of the Colony, which they would undoubtedly do if there was no means of instruction in Anatomy. We ought to take a utilitarian view of such things. For the purposes of education a school of anatomy would be required, and the sooner it was commenced the better. Even with all the provisions of the bill, as they stood, very few subjects would be obtained for dissection; gentlemen little know the advantage to this Colony that such a school would produce, nor how much benefit the surgeons now conferred on this town; people came from all the neighboring settlements around the coast to consult them, and if we made the surgeons more efficient by the establishment of an anatomical school, more people would come in order to have delicate operations performed instead of going to other countries. Doctors can learn from books as lawyers from books; it was not only the children of this Colony, but the young people from the neighboring countries who would come here for instruction. By passing that bill they would do much for the Colony, to say nothing of the natural regard they must have for their children and their wives.

Hon. Alston supported the bill, as it was highly important that medical men should be kept up to a proper standard of efficiency. It was quite impossible that they could follow the methods of operating if they were precluded from practice. From that reason he dreaded their occurrence of an accident, as however proficient medical men might have been years ago, the always required the assistance of practice to enable them to keep their hands in.

Hon. Ring—The delicate feelings of hon members reminded him of Sairy Gamp under similar circumstances. She said she nearly fainted to see her dead husband lying

ing at the hospital with a penny piece on each eye and his wooden leg under his left arm. After some further discussion, the whole of the clauses were adopted, the third reading ordered for to-morrow.

VICTORIA BY-LAW ORDINANCE.

Hon. Crease—The bill, was intended to enable the Corporation to raise, by means of rates, the necessary funds to carry out the various By-laws in the bill of incorporation which at the present time they were unable to do.

Hon. Helmcken—He should decidedly oppose the bill as it gave the Corporation unlimited powers to put the citizens to an indefinite expense; under its provisions the Municipal Council might please themselves as to what amount of rates they would levy, and if the rates were not paid up, they had the power of charging 24 per cent. interest, a most exorbitant rate. The bill was ridiculous; they might have reason for calling the general government tyrannical, but under that bill the Corporation would be much more so, and the natural result would be that they would prefer being without any Corporation at all. The bill might be used very injuriously, just as the fancy of the Corporation might dictate.

Hon. Drake said the present Ordinance was in aid of the Municipal Ordinance, as under the last named ordinance there was no machinery existing to enable them to carry out the provisions of the bill of incorporation. It was only an enabling ordinance, and confined in its effect to the 35th section of the Act of Incorporation.

Hon. Wood said the Act of Incorporation had been most carefully prepared; and he was surprised to find them coming now to ask for powers never contemplated by that Act.

Hons. Ring and Alston opposed the second reading.

Hon. Crease said that the powers in the Act of Incorporation had been limited expressly in order to have the experience of its working during one year; and he now came forward with an ordinance giving the additional latitude necessary in order to secure the effective application of many of the provisions contained in the Act of Incorporation which there was no power to enforce at present. If the powers in the ordinance were indefinite, they could be fixed in committee. The bill then passed a second reading.

SHIP STORES IN BOND.

Hon. Helmcken moved that the Governor be requested to order that a voyage to any foreign port shall be considered of not less than forty days duration; and that vessels of fifty tons burthen and upwards bound foreign, shall be allowed to have their stores duty free.

Hon. Hamley said that such a length of time fixed for short voyages would inevitably lead to a system of smuggling; these vessels would be here possibly three times a week, and would demand stores for forty days on each occasion; the consequence would be that it would not be ship stores simply, but cargoes, which they could easily land at some other part of the coast and bring back here again, so that such goods would come in competition with the honest trader, who has paid duty, and would inflict a serious wrong. He would propose, as an amendment, that such stores shall be given in quantities proportioned to the length of the voyage.

Hon. Ring—Although he would not support the proposed amendment, yet he would beg to congratulate the hon. Collector of Customs upon the advance that he is making towards free trade and again making Victoria a free port; and he would on all occasions take the liberty to invite him to press forward in that direction. He would remind hon. members that the revenue derived from Customs Duty ought never rise to protective duties. When the duties become protective of some class it is a vice in legislation, against which he should always humbly protest.

Hon. Helmcken—They had been told that no alteration could be made in the Customs laws affecting ships stores unless the rules laid down in the Customs Consolidation Act were conforming to; they had adopted the resolution to those rules and were now told that the rules were inapplicable. The hon. Collector of Customs seemed to have a strange dread of anything in the shape of merchandise leaving Victoria. The object of the resolution was to free commerce from some of the trammels that now surrounded it. If a ship wanted stores for 40 days, sell them to her by all means; she would not be allowed to use them while in port, as they would be placed under lock and key.

Hon. Drake—He objected to the amendment, because they must take the Statute for a guide; the Imperial Act said 40 days, and of course that period must appear in ours. The Governor would not have power to assent to anything not in accordance with the English Statute. As to vessels taking cargoes, that was mere absurdity; the amount taken by small vessels was not worth talking about.

Hon. Robson supported the resolution; he advocated 40 days because the amount of money obtained in this way would be so much gained to the Colony. The question was not what these vessels would do with the goods but what amount of trade would be gained by it.

On division hon Hamley's amendment was lost.

The House then divided on the resolution, which was carried.

THE DRAWBACKS BILL.

was taken up in Committee of the Whole and elicited some debate on the first clause, which reduces the tonnage of vessels to ten tons; on division, however, the clause was carried. The Committee then rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again. The Council then adjourned till 1 p. m. to-morrow.

DISASTER.—The Chilean ship Francisco Alvarez Alexander, from Port Gamble, with lumber for Valparaiso, was lost Oct. 22d at Mangarova, where she struck on a coral reef. Vessel and cargo a total loss; all hands saved.

THE steamer G. S. Wright reached Portland on Saturday last. She will sail again on Thursday or Friday for Victoria, and will leave this port on the 22d inst. for Sitka and Forts Tongass and Wrangell.

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THERE are some public in which the prosperity of the community is involved, that hesitate to embark in: it they do not bear on their likelihood of being profitable, for the general good they distinct idea that someone know exactly who, should take the initiative; and are ready to admit the great such undertakings would back until the advantage away, or absolute self-preservation to do at the eleventh might have been done more more profitably at an earlier such cases a good government steps in and affords such a certain rate of interest on vested, or the loan of a capital required, secured on the enterprise. Of course such undertakings are of paramount importance to the people, and after due taken to investigate the rule should always be care that the public funds should unless the enterprise is dis to be conducive to the g Such an opportunity occurring in Cariboo for Government; we allude to the being in the water of Swift liam Creek, and although upon which a judgment capability sufficient to justify in tendering its aid, abilities are in its favor, and the authorities would not the small sum requisite for diciously in order to ascertain the statements made in relation have been informed by mining the country well that a River can be brought in by Callum's Gulch, by means about ten miles in length which would require a tunnel of possibly one thousand require to be made at an of about \$20,000. This easily raised in the district are numerous hydraulic the water would be supplied by these claims and take shares for which the labor in payment, so that portion only of the estimate be required in money. A calculations of our informant 400 inches could with safety on, and the whole of this have a guaranteed sale cents per inch, realising an per day, so that the entire be repaid, allowing for exp intelligence and repairs, in and a half, having due regulations of the season when not be utilized on the hy There are also a number of that would gladly pay their use of the water after it passes side hills, and the Flume take up a number of shaft ditch, always providing could be shown to be the extent and in the The necessity for some such the present supply from sources on William Creek, tressingly made manifest entire cessation of mining during the past year. M known to be rich, but want of water, were reduced and the hired hands from the mines to avoid ination. Had there been a water last year the yield have been one-third larger and prosperity would have Cariboo instead of the penation which were observed the whole of that district d season. It is not merely tively large population at suffers from such deprivation whole of the Colony, hence that the introduction of the miners' motive power, which the whole country We are perfectly aware by force of the uncertainty of nected with ordinary mining and we should be the last the Executive to step out sphere and peril the public problematical scheme; but lectly certain, as far as human guide us, that a portion of William Creek for years to come if worked the hydraulic apparatus, ask in the present instance Government would take would place beyond a dou