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DAVID W. HIGGINS

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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST  
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PAYABLE INvariably IN ADVANCE.

OFFICE—Colonist Building, Government and Langley Streets, adjoining Bank of British Columbia.

tion will pass away with it! No other field possesses in a sufficient degree the qualities of richness, fertility, facilities for the elementary duties of settlement, and accessibility. But unless Englishmen rise, and that quickly, to the great duty and the great opportunity, not only will the vision of this earthly paradise fade from their blurred view, but the whole of British America must slip from their perishable grasp. It cannot be concealed that, in this matter, what is England's opportunity is the Dominion's necessity. The English people may imagine that they can afford to remain in a state of ignorance and indifference about the opening up and peopling of the vast territory referred to—that the huge mass of pauperism may fester and run until the time

of old, it reaches the heaven. But well assured: if such be indeed her policy, there are those now living who will see the British sceptre confined within the narrow limits of her own sea-girt isles! There undoubtedly are British statesmen—so-called—whose vision cannot span the Atlantic, and who would really prefer to see the nation shrinking into her little shell like an oyster; but we prefer to think such are not to be regarded as the true types of our nation. Indeed, every mail brings fresh evidence of a

returning of public opinion for the great scheme of transferring the surplus home population into the new Dominion, as the only effective cure for pauperism. One difficulty appears still to stagger some. The great bulk of those who leave the British Isles find their way into the United States to build up a rival if not an enemy—and where a hostile tariff shuts them out, or rather in, from British manufactures. The

curse for this is in the hands of the nation, and it is simple. Make it as easy to reach the Red River country as it is to reach the open lands in the States; guide and assist the tide of emigration into that new territory, and let the Dominion be a free market for British manufactures. In this way all inducement to go into the United States would cease, and the Dominion would become a good customer of the parent Empire—so good as to amply repay all the effort and expenditure essential to the success of the scheme.

## LAYING OVER CLAIMS.

Many of our readers will know that the practice in Cariboo is to lay over mining claims during the winter season—that is to say, the owners of claims are, during a specified period, exempted from the necessity of complying with the provision in the Gold Mining Ordinance which renders a claim liable to be jumped if found unrepresented for more than three days without permission first obtained from the Gold Commissioner. During the present season claims have been laid over from 1st Nov. 1869, to 20th May 1870.

Considerable difference of opinion exists respecting this practice. There are many, and amongst them those whose opinion is entitled to very great weight, who hold that the practice is inimical to the welfare of the country, and should be discontinued. It is argued that the tendency is to encourage a discontinuance of active mining operations during half the year, when these operations would, as a rule, be practicable, and would give employment for labor all the year round. It is also asserted that it has a tendency to injure the commerce and prosperity of the colony in a variety of ways, by making the mining population more erratic than would otherwise be the case. As a general principle, we hold that all mining affairs are best left as much as possible in the hands of the miners; and it is, therefore, with a considerable degree of caution and reluctance that we approach the question like the present, yet we are the more emboldened to do so from the fact of the *Sentinel* having already taken up this question. Our Cariboo contemporaries have strongly advocated a discontinuance of the system of laying over claims. One can readily conceive that there are a large number of claims in Cariboo, especially on William Creek and the gulches therewith connected, respecting which there need be no hesitation whatever about advocating a discontinuance of the practice; yet it appears equally clear to us that there is another class of claims to refuse to lay over which might entail very great hardship if not positive injustice. Probably the true policy—the happy medium—would be found in a classification of the claims, and investing the Gold Commissioner with discretionary power to deal with each claim upon its own merits.

Upon the owner of any claim presenting sufficient reasons why he should be exempt from actual occupation for a specified period, the Gold Commissioner could grant a certificate and make a record in book open for public inspection. This would appear not embraced, and embraced, in time, to be the most likely way of avoiding in-

jeance to individualizing the one hand, and injury to the public interest on the other. On this and other accounts, one cannot but regret the disappearance of the Mining Board, a representative body peculiarly entitled to express an opinion upon such matters. We are not aware whether the representative of the Cariboo District has received any instructions upon this subject; but there can be no doubt that the system of indiscriminately laying over all claims for half of the year is attended with serious disadvantages, and forms the subject of much complaint.

TUESDAY FEB 15.  
THE DICKENS READING.—At the Mechanic's Institute last evening a very excellent audience attended, and rendered to Mr Geo. Pauncefort a capital house-warming for his inaugural illustration of Nicholas Nickleby

Sketches. Referring to the immigration movement, the San Francisco *Call* designates as the "immigration humbug, and gives the advantage of crowding every avenue of employment." It thinks there are those connected with the movement who desire the creation of paying offices, and expresses the opinion that the State tax-payers cannot and will not spare the money to carry on the scheme.

Two gems of sailors, belonging to the bark *Ruby*, who refused to do duty and were taken into custody, have been sent aboard their vessel. The recalcitrant tar are certainly "precision" in the eyes of their captain at a port where hands are scarce and wages high.

COURT OF Revision.—The Court of Revision sat yesterday and heard many appeals which were taken under consideration. The next meeting will be held on Monday the 28th inst., when appellants must appear personally or by agent.

COLONIAL CONVENTION.—This body will meet at two o'clock this afternoon, when the Speech will be read by the Hon. Colonial Secretary. He will preside over the deliberations of the body during the session.

ROUNDTOP.—William Wayman Snowball has been committed to stand his trial at a ceremony to the Oriental alley murder.

BARKER'S EXPRESS will leave the Victoria office to-morrow at 8 o'clock a.m. for Cariboo and way stations, carrying passengers and mail, and return to Victoria on Saturday evening.

SNOWED DOWN.—The telegraph wire between Victoria and Spanish Bay was broken by the weight of the snow which fell upon it.

The culvert beneath Douglas street being choked, the water has backed up the ravine and forms a beautiful lake of liquid mud.

THE TARTAR BOX.—The Bates' Troops are expected to arrive here from Fortland on the next trip of the California.

A Bishop Rebuked.

The Rev. John Ingles, one of the leading High Churchmen of Exeter, has declined to sign the memorial to the Archbishop of Canterbury against Dr. Temple's consecration, in a caustic letter addressed to Bishop Tower he says:—You speak of Dr. Temple's continued countenance of the Essays and Reviews, forgetful of the fact that such countenance is certainly a matter purely of your own intolerance and sarcasm, and may

aggravate. Your only ground for the charge is that he did not adopt that particular mode of peroration which you (and I too) think he should have adopted. Your other unfounded accusation is an uncharitable one. You speak and write and act as if no one but those who join your protests and memorials can care for the purity and integrity of the catholic faith. On this head I wish only to say that I would point simply to my own past life and to that of your lordship. There is about the moment before me only one thing on which I can look with satisfaction.

In the absence of those fearful accusations which made my blood run cold as I read your lordship's letter to the Lord Primate of the Church of Scotland. How can you, or anybody else know that even *Kasya* and *Review* have ruined souls? Does your lordship still dare thus to sit on the throne of the Eternal Judge? I trust that the absence from the memorial of this fearful element of the letter may be taken as proof that your lordship's eyes have been opened to its terrible profane character.

A BARON HAUSMANN'S PORTFOLIO.—Do you wish to know the amount of the Baron's fabulous wealth? The best part of it lies in the revenues of the Baronies estimated at 50,000 a year. Add to that the annual Senatorial donation of 30,000, and you have a total of 80,000. You will scarcely believe me when I say that the Baron retires with only 20,000 Reals of his own; and yet nothing is more exact. But how many others in his place would not have extended and embellished the capital without following the rather too crooked ways of Superintendent Fouquet? Should we have long to seek for them in the history of our immediate contemporaries? Baron Hausmann possesses at Nice the Villa of Mortier, the maintenance of which costs costly. He is also proprietor of the domain of Cestas in the Gironde which he has converted at great expense into a princely residence. The architect charged with the works of separation and embellishment shared the common error of his employer's wealth. He counted on an immense fortune being in the Prefect's possession and spared no outlet to render Cestas worthy of so opulent a nobleman. The same in the bill, which reached a figure that caused a terrible outcry at the Prefecture. Quick, quick, said the Baron to M Alphand, let me have these bills reduced. The total is altogether exaggerated and I am treated far too much like a millionaire. M Alphand set off to Cestas, and the accounts were taxed but still reached a large sum. A few months elapsed and no payment came. One morning Baron Hausmann received the visit of a gentleman in black, with a white cravat, who told him, with all the respect due to so high a functionary, that if the note was not liquidated within a short delay he should be obliged to lay an embargo on the precious mansion. The Baron then entered into arrangements, fixed certain periods, and paid the demands regularly at the times agreed upon.

Fritz's Corral has become the favorite Colonial beverage, and is to be found on every eatable station from Victoria to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. It has a fine flavor,

CHAMOIS HAT.—The most absurd sight in the world, next to a man with a bamboo trying to engineer an umbrella down a crowded street in a windy day, is the spectacle a man presents in crossing this hat in similar weather. The fun is unenhanced if it happens to be raining a little. You see a portly individual bearing down the streets, serenely unconscious of head winds and cross seas from overflowing gutters. Suddenly his shiny black top gear tips back; he clasps one hand on his head, then reaches up irrationally with both, broaches to, comes before the wind and bears away in chase. Just before him the tantalizing things skips along as if nothing were amiss.

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A new version of "She Stoops to Conquer" is just now being performed at Greenwich. The *Kenilworth Mercury* informs us that the Marquis of Ravelwood whose co-attrition in the way of charity are so well known, has been completely drawn into the shade by a young lady of noble birth, who has taken the balcony of the new Greenwich Theatre for the purpose of giving the profits to the unemployed in Deptford Dockyard. This benevolent and distinguished person enters to heartily applaud her work, that she is to be seen nightly attended by her two peers, dapple-sing soda and brandy &c. with a grace and fascination that draw her numerous customers.

Box Island Day Free Russell's celebrated coffee. The best and the cream. Warranted a pure and healthful beverage.