

The Weekly Colonist

Tuesday, March 21, 1865.

THE LAST OF THE STRUGGLE

After all the hay and straw that has been blowing in the wind, and especially in the eyes of our morning contemporary, who only the other day, unfortunately for his prophetic power, prognosticated a great revolution of feeling in the House in favor of the free port, the Assembly has committed itself to the principle of protection or encouragement to the farmer. The foreign producer will in future be met by a landing permit sufficient to give a wholesome check to importations of vegetable productions. The casual trader who has heretofore landed with his goods and sold them under our very nose without paying license, is now compelled to contribute to the revenue in a proportion that must satisfy the most discontented resident retailer. The evil to our farmers of the incessant importations of small quantities of produce will now cease, and if we are to have continued importations from our neighbors they will be larger in bulk and less frequent in their arrivals. The five dollars charged as a landing permit on potatoes will be virtually a tax of from one quarter to a half per cent per pound during the summer season. On importations of a ton weight at a cent a pound—the average price during ordinary summers—the duty will be a quarter of a cent; but we think the shipments from the Sound, in the one vessel from the one shipper will be more frequently under than over a ton. The ordinary vegetables, such as cabbage, turnips, etc., will pay even a higher rate; for although the permit for each of them is only half the permit on potatoes, the quantities imported individually will not approach anything like half the amount of the latter. On the whole we think yesterday's action of the House will be highly acceptable to the population generally, and to the farmers in particular. To our Cowichan, Comox, and other settlers in the outlying districts, an encouragement is given that will, we have no doubt, induce every individual to use his utmost exertions the present year to turn every available piece of land to good account; so that when the summer season makes its appearance, we shall have abundance of produce coming in from all parts of the Island to supply Victoria's demand.

We think the most inveterate free-porter will not object to such a result as this. We are sure no merchant or trader will complain at being supplied with produce by our own farmers; and we are equally certain that the retailers will be as well pleased to sell goods to these men as to the settlers on Whidby Island. The only difference in the transaction will be that the money which we pay for produce, instead of being, after a few purchases are made, invested in foreign territory, will go to build up comfortable homesteads on Vancouver Island, and place our settlers in a position to have the most modern appliances that science and manufacture can place in the hands of the agriculturist. We know this is a state of affairs highly repugnant to some of our enlightened teachers of political economy. We know that our evening and morning contemporaries, who mouth Mill and McCulloch with all the gusto of a charity boy attempting to speak Russian—we know that these geniuses are above such weaknesses. They, with a few insane scribblers, see nothing but wreck and ruin by encouraging the agriculturist—the Indian's canoe with the dirty blanket for a sail, represents in their far-seeing eyes the grandeur of unfettered commerce, and as such is to them of infinite more value than twenty dray loads of produce coming from the interior of the Island. Yet these men are political economists. They talk, or rather rave, of Mill, Peel, Huskinson, Cobden, and so on, and make about as good use of these great men's arguments as a Flathead Indian might be supposed to do with a theodolite. The genius of the Chronicle, in his political profundity, only a few days ago informed us that if a tariff were levied in Victoria, English or American goods via Vancouver Island to British Columbia would have to pay two tariffs; and the able representative of Mill and McCulloch, in the Times, declares, with a vehemence that is neither politic nor economic, that countries have as much similarity to each other as human beings, and that if a free trader is to be bled in Middlesex he should on the same ground be bled in Victoria—that is, we presume, financially. In perusing the lucubrations of last evening's "political economist," it is like reading the wanderings of a patient in the very height of fever, and it is therefore very natural that the most forcible illustration the writer could use should be about bleeding. Out of the incoherent and disjointed rambling we can gather but the one idea, and that is, what is the custom in one country should be the custom in another. What a pity this great teacher should remain on an unappreciative Island like Vancouver, Why does he not try his hand, as he has taken England for his standard, at converting those very foolish men of business, who control the destinies of the United States, to a free trade policy. America has been ruining herself for the last half century through tariffs—her re-

sources have been decreasing—her population dwindling away—her exports and imports have come down to something too insignificant to mention: the fact is plain enough—her people are all fools, and there is no great teacher among them, like our mentor on Yates street, to point out the right path. What we are compelled to say of the United States, applies equally to all the prosperous British colonies—the inhabitants are all laboring under mental aberration, because they do not adopt the policy pursued in England. The political economists of Vancouver Island are, however, thank Heaven, free from this dishonorable abandonment of the habits and customs of the mother country. They are patriotic. They are ready to drop their "H's" with their tariffs, to convert the Legislative Council into the House of Lords, install Gog and Magog in our City Council, and make Mr. Thomas Harris Lord Mayor of Victoria. Nature may have made a mistake in giving the Feejees a hot climate, but we must not let that stand in the way—the inhabitants will have to discard their primitive costume and adopt the "bell-topper," even if it should be a little cracked, get a Bond street outfit, and, like wise political economists, defy the rays of the sun. All this is found in the works or speeches of Mill, McCulloch, Smith, Huskinson, Bright, Cobden, Bastiat, Ricardo, Cousin, and McLeod. These men point out clearly that nature is a fool, that she gives oil to the Greenlander and fruit to the Kanaka, and that while the inhabitant of the Torrid Zone can get along with no more extensive costume than a pocket handkerchief, the denizen of the Arctic regions is obliged to bury himself in furs. Fortunately we are living in an age in which even nature can be corrected—when habits and customs, systems and policies can be made to conform to one great standard. Verily, above all fools is the boy who attires himself in the habits of a full grown man; the garments may suit the person of maturity but the least they can accomplish for the reckless youngster is to break his neck. When our contemporaries and their host of illiterate correspondents attempt again to profane the names of such men as we have mentioned, let them look well to their borrowed apparel. The ass of old made a sorry attempt to aje the lion.

In conclusion we would merely say we have fought for a principle and we have won it. In three short months we have had the satisfaction of seeing the whole politics of the country changed. Yesterday closes the battle. The country will not be raised, the price of food will not be perceptibly dearer; for we hope to see both the cattle and the vegetable duties postponed in their operations for three months. We are willing now as we have always been to go heart in hand with the free port or any other party that will sink trivialities for the general prosperity of the country.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The Hon. Mr. Holbrook on Tuesday presented a petition against the Union of the Colonies, signed by two hundred and fifty merchants, packers and miners. The petition will be taken up on Monday next. He also moved that the Government be requested to place a sum in the supplementary estimates for opening a trail between New Westminster and the Sumass. The motion was supported by the Hons. Messrs. Cornwall, Haynes and Ball, and was laid on the table for future consideration. Mr. Haynes thought the trail should be extended to Hope. The Hon. Mr. Walkem gave notice that he would introduce a bill respecting imprisonment for debt. Mr. Walkem also brought forward a resolution, which was passed, requesting the Governor to impress on the Imperial Government the hardship of compelling the Colony to pay the sum of £10,704 16s. 7d. for the buildings at the camp. The Ordinance on Supply was read a third time and passed. The Gold Fields Ordinance was also passed.

SMALLPOX.—The New York Express says that small-pox is at present very prevalent in that city. In one week forty deaths were reported, which allowing the usual rate of twelve cases of sickness to each death, gives the frightful number of 500 cases scattered through the city. The small-pox hospital is full, schools are being broken up, and public and private charities are besieged by applications for relief.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—It is expected that the work of shipping the Atlantic submarine cable on board the steamer Great Eastern, and preparing the vessel for sea, will be completed about the middle of June next. The formidable undertaking of laying the cable will thus have the best time of the year for its execution.

NIGHT PATROL.—We understand that the inhabitants of Quesselmouth are still under apprehension of an unfriendly visit from the Chilcoaten Indians, and it is therefore considered necessary to keep a night watch always patrolling the town.

DIVORCES IN ENGLAND.—A late English paper states that 133 original cases appear at present on the list of the Divorce Court for hearing, besides twenty-seven others standing over by consent of the parties.

THE ACCIDENT TO THE MATILDA.—The British Columbian in noticing the recent disaster to the above schooner says it is happy to be able to state that the cargo was saved without any loss to the owners thereof Messrs. Moody & Co. of Burrard's Inlet.

British Columbia.

ARRIVAL OF TREASURE!!

News from Cariboo.

The steamer Enterprise arrived Thursday from New Westminster, with 60 passengers and Barnard's Cariboo Express and Deitz & Nelson's River Express, in charge of Mr. Hughes, with about \$20,000 in treasure. Among the passengers were Messrs. Ormandy and Howlett, express messengers of the Bank of British Columbia, who left Williams Creek on the 20th February, (at the same time as Mr. Poole, of Barnard's Express,) in charge of treasure for the bank, and deposited \$126,000 at the Government Assay Office, New Westminster. The Express party left Yale on Sunday last in canoes, travelling alternately by water and on the rotten ice, and reached New Westminster on Wednesday night. The steamer Hope, which had been frozen in at Chilliwack Slough, broke through the same ice on which they had travelled and arrived at New Westminster shortly after the express.

Ice was disappearing from the River. From Mr. Ormandy we have the following interesting mining and other intelligence. Williams Creek. The following claims were at work and all taking out good pay, viz: The CALEDONIA, WATSON, GRIZZLY, MOFFATT, and CAMERON Companies. The first named has been paying steadily since the commencement of the year, and is washing out from 60 to 100 ounces per day. Mr. Blunt, of the Bank of British Columbia went down into their shaft one evening and from three pans of dirt washed out over \$21. The gold brought from Cariboo, viz, \$111,000, was nearly all taken out of the above claims during the last three months.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, CANADIAN and ADAMS Companies were at work and expected to pay shortly. Great hopes are entertained of the former claim this season.

The New York and Never Sweat Companies were at work, but from want of water would be unable to wash out this spring. Several other claims are preparing to go to work.

The Bed-rock Flume was progressing favorably. It was within two hundred yards of Richfield.

Our informant learned that the following claims were at work and reported to be paying expenses: The EURKA, MOOREHEAD and VAUGHAN TUNNEL.

On this creek the principal claims were also said to be paying their expenses. Great expectations were entertained of the Ayrshire Lass claim, which struck rich pay in the middle of last month.

Trade and Provisions. There was an improvement visible in trade, which had been dull. Stocks of provisions were sufficient for present wants, and prices were firm at former rates, but should the roads remain in their present bad condition for any length of time prices must rise. The price of beef had gone up and it is expected to be very dear, owing to loss of stock, which must create a brisk demand for bacon.

THE WEATHER. On the creek had been unusually mild and fine, warm sunshine being frequent, the nights cool and frosty. So little snow had fallen at the mines that a scarcity of water is feared in the summer unless rain falls. Snow on the mountains was from 3 1/2 to 4 feet deep. The season had been healthy and the Hospital was tenanted.

THE ROADS. Between the creek and Milk Ranch there was a continuation of snow drifts which made the travelling very difficult. The Express and treasure had to be carried by toboggans (dog-sleds). From Milk Ranch to Lake La Hache the sleighing was very good. A heavy snow storm on the 26th completely blocked up the road at the latter place rendering it almost impassable. The Express party managed however to break their way through. The weather here has been intensely cold. On the 28th February the mercury stood at 25 degrees, and on the 1st March 37 degrees below zero. People were suffering from frost bite.

From Kanaka Bar to Yale it was impossible to get horses through and it became necessary to pack by Indians which occupied four days. The Indians charged \$5 each for packing Express matter and \$6 for gold dust. On Boothroyd's Flat the snow was five feet deep. In the cañons there was good walking. After passing the suspension bridge some big snow slides from the mountain were encountered, which were very difficult to pass.

On the Bonaparte stock continued still to die off, but in the neighborhood of Lake La Hache they were doing very well, notwithstanding the cold. The Harpers will lose 500 horses out of their 900 head on the Kamloops ranges. Mr. Barnard's horses—79 head—are doing very well at Crow's Bar and Canoe Creek. Kirkpatrick, who purchased York's stock at Cook's Ferry, some time since, has lost about two-thirds. He could not get hay, and said he should have to feed his stock on barley.

The following extract is from the letter of a well known and reliable miner on Williams Creek to a friend in this city, dated February 19th: "There is not much doing on the creek. The Grizzly is at work, also the Caledonia, Moffat, Watson, Cameron, and a claim in Stout's Gulch known as the Welsh Boys' Claim—all taking out pay. The weather has been very fine. We expect soon to have arrivals from below."

From the Columbian. At Lillooet trade is stagnant. Owing to the severity of the weather mining upon the bars of the Fraser is almost entirely suspended. Previous to a "freeze up" as high as \$18 a day to the rocker had been made near Lillooet. The road is well broken as far down as Pemberton, and it was expected that on the Douglas Portage Messrs. Dodge & Co. would have their sleighs running in the course of a few days. The steamers on the upper lakes had commenced running. Mr. Saleess, a Lillooet trader, died on the 14th instant of disease of the heart, while crossing Pemberton Portage on his way to Lillooet. These gentlemen complain bitterly of the difficulty of getting down from Harrisonmouth to this city. Mr. Huppert remarks that seven years ago he was obliged to make his way through the jungle on the banks of the Lower Fraser, and he was surprised at being obliged to undergo a similar process now. The total absence of any road, even a trail, to connect the interior with the capital is certainly hardly creditable to the late administration, and if not attended to soon will become a reproach to the present Government.

THE HOPE-KOOTENAY TRAIL.—Mr. Ladner arrived from Victoria on Tuesday with cattle and an outfit for the prosecution of his contract to open the above trail, which is to be completed by the 20th ult. We hear that upon the strength of the opening of this trail, Messrs. Reinhart & Co. have made a contract for the delivery of 20,000 lbs. of goods at Kootenay, at 50 cents per pound freight.

THE ASSIZES.—The Court of Assize opened yesterday at 11 o'clock. The Grand Jury was empanelled, and W. Clarkson, Esquire, chosen foreman. Only two cases appeared upon the docket, that of the Indian committed several months ago for breaking into a house belonging to Mr. Kennedy on the opposite side of the river, and that of the Indian more recently committed on the charge of shooting an Indian on the North Road to Burrard Inlet, the particulars of which appeared at the time in our columns. The Grand Jury returned a guilty and sentenced the former was found guilty and sentenced to six months hard labor with the addition of a flogging. The latter is held over for want of evidence.

QUITTING RESIGNED.—Capt. Dodge informs us that the Chief of the Chilliwacks, who deplacated his predecessor's widow the other day, is quite resigned to his probable fate, taking it for granted that he will be brought down here and hanged.

SALE OF LAKE VALLEY RANCH.—Mr. Hudson has sold out this ranch, formerly owned by Davidson, to Mr. A. S. Bates. We have not learned at what figure the property changed hands.

The Leviathan went round to Birch Bay yesterday (15th) with the telegraph officials.

ANOTHER BARRISTER.—The Hon. Mr. Cornwall was yesterday enrolled as a practicing barrister in this colony.

A BARBAROUS LOOKING CRAFT.—A Bella Coolla canoe was landed from the steamer yesterday. It is about 60 feet in length by 2 1/2 feet wide, and is about the most ungraceful-looking craft we remember to have seen. The canoe has been brought down from Sentinok Arm for the Hon. Mr. Brew, as a memento, we presume, of his expedition last summer.

Return of Mr. Turnbull. Our readers will recollect that Mr. Turnbull started out about five weeks ago on a Government exploring expedition. We have now to announce his return last evening. The object of the expedition was to examine the several passes through the Cascade Range in the neighborhood of Hope to ascertain whether one more favorable than that now in use could be discovered. Mr. Turnbull, after a thorough examination, finds that the pass selected by Capt. Grant, R. E. and through which the Hope-Similkameen road passes, is the one most eligible for a road. He experienced most severe weather, having been out during the recent cold snap. The following items have been kindly furnished to us by Mr. Turnbull:

DEPTH OF SNOW.—From Coe's Ranch to Hope 5 feet, thence to the summit of Capt. Grant's trail, 7; thence to the Skaget Falls 6 feet; on the summit of the Cascade Range, 12 feet.

THE ICE.—The ice in the Lower Fraser is becoming very rotten, and travelling is rendered extremely difficult and dangerous. There is no ice below Langley Slough, but between that and Hope the river is still bridged over in some places.

MURDER.—About four days ago the young chief of the Chilliwacks murdered the widow of the old chief by cutting her head off with an axe.

FROST BITTEN.—M. J. Blackman, C. Hughes and "Russian John" were badly frost-bitten on their way up—not fatally, however.

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY.—The meeting of the members of this society took place on Saturday evening in Golden's Building. It was decided that the society, which has now been in existence for two years, should be re-organized on a fresh basis under the original Constitution and By-laws, and in order to give special inducement to all Welshmen and descendants of Welshmen to join the society, a resolution was passed dispensing with the entrance fee of two dollars to all those who shall enroll themselves as members on or before the next regular meeting of the Society. The following gentlemen were then duly installed as officers of the Society for the ensuing year: Richard Lewis, President; F. Dally and W. A. Harries, Vice-Presidents; Hugh Lloyd Jones, Treasurer; and T. Foulkes Swanwick, Secretary, with a board of management, consisting of five members. The By-laws having been read over at the suggestion of the President several gentlemen present signified their intention to join the Society. Various matters of a business nature were then disposed of and Mr. Thomas Gwallter Priece, who is about to leave for the East, having undertaken to extend the hand of fellowship to the St. David's Society of New York, with the assurance of kindly greeting to such of its members as might visit this Island; the meeting was adjourned to meet this evening at half-past seven in the Police Court, which has been kindly lent for the purpose by the Stipendiary Magistrate.

FREIGHT TO KOOTENAY.—Three traders here, we learn, have contracted with packers in British Columbia to convey 50,000, 75,000 and 150,000 lbs.—in all 275,000 lbs. of goods—to Kootenay, early this season.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

The anniversary of the natal day of Old Ireland's Patron Saint, was observed by the "Sons of Erin's Isle" on Friday for the first time in the annals of the colony, and judging from the warm interest evinced, the effort to organize a St. Patrick's Society will be most abundantly successful. The day was ushered in by a bright balmy morning, one of the first fine days of approaching Spring. A fine green flag bearing the national emblem, the harp, with the motto "Erin go bragh," was displayed over the "Grotto." A large number of persons attended at St. Andrew's Cathedral at half-past ten o'clock to listen to Mozart's Grand Mass, which was performed in excellent style by the choir. A sermon was also preached by one of the Reverend Fathers. In the afternoon the races attracted an immense crowd, who remained in the Park nearly all the afternoon, enjoying the delightful weather. In the evening the inaugural ball of the Society took place in the Lyceum. The hall was tastefully decorated, and was thronged by a numerous and respectable assemblage. His Excellency the Governor and family being present, as also the Hon. Colonial Secretary and Mrs. Wakeford, several of the members of the Legislature, and a number of our most prominent citizens. The music, by a band of ten performers under the direction of Prof. St. Clair, was excellent, and everything combined to render the affair one of the most pleasant and well conducted of the kind which has been given this season. The St. Patrick's Society has begun under the most favorable auspices, and we may congratulate the gentlemen who have taken the initiative in the movement, on the success, so far, attained through their energy and patriotic spirit.

A CARIBOO GHOST STORY.—Miners, as a rule, are not superstitious, the nature of their calling alone tending to make them otherwise; but the following spectral anecdote is perfectly reliable, as parties are now in town who will vouch for its authenticity and truthfulness. Not long since, during some of the coldest weather experienced on Williams' Creek, while the snow lay about three feet deep on the hillsides, some miners accidentally observed on a rather obscure spot on the hill that the snow was regularly trodden or flattened down for a distance of about 200 yards in such a manner as could only be accomplished by some object frequently passing over the same beaten path. Certain marks seemed to indicate, as did Friday's foot-print in the sand, that some human being had passed that way, but what could be the object of such human being in proceeding to a lone spot, and parading for 200 yards through three feet of snow, was a mystery which the bewildered discoverers were at a loss to conjecture. They, however, finally came to the conclusion that some abandoned miner must have taken into his somniferous head to wander thither during the night when all eyes were closed in repose, and parade up and down until the cold restored the slumberer to consciousness. It was accordingly decided that two or three of the number should determine the matter by watching for the sleep-walker; and for two or three consecutive nights sentries were mounted over the beaten track; but, lo! no apparition was visible—all was still as death. Upon each subsequent guard being posted, it was noticed that a certain pine log, which lay near at hand was invariably moved to another place. This placed our heroes in a worse quandary than ever. Was it possible that directly the watchers retired this log could commence cutting capers and have a "break down" jig in the snow? The idea was somewhat preposterous but still there was no other reasonable hypothesis by which the mystery could be unraveled, and the whole affair now became sorely perplexing. The idea of watching by daylight of course never occurred in a case where spirits were supposed to be concerned, and it happened that the heroes of our tale were relating their marvellous discovery to some companions, in the hearing of a certain Reverend D—, who, to their astonishment at once set the matter at rest by exclaiming "I can solve the mystery at once. While you are all at work I invariably take a stroll up the hill side to a certain log which I carry backwards and forwards so many times a day for exercise." The explorers decamped.

TO PROFESSOR G. G. ST. CLAIR. (DEAR SIR,—Before taking your final departure from this colony, we deem it due to you to give a public expression to our sense of the zeal and assiduity you have uniformly shown in the exercise of your duties as Organist of our Church of St. Andrew, and to thank you most kindly for the many compositions you have written for our choir, and to which we have ever listened with great pleasure. We desire to express our sincere regret at your leaving us, and hope that in the near and distant field you have chosen your success may prove commensurate with your acknowledged talents and the good wishes of many friends whom you leave behind. We remain, yours respectfully,

Rev. Chas. Seigherz Michael Carey
Rev. Father E. Ma-Park Everett
J. A. Beegan
Thomas J. Burnes F. Campbell
C. A. Schimid P. Collins
J. N. McDonald P. O'Dwyer
James Collins Humphrey O'Sullivan
B. Darham John O'Dwyer
P. McTiernan

And 100 others.

Victoria, V. I., March 18, 1865.

LAW DEBATING SOCIETY.—The law clerks in this city have formed themselves into a society for the purpose of having discussions and debates on questions of jurisprudence. We commend the young gentlemen for this good move, and we hope their little society will be properly organized so as to last long, and prove really beneficial and instructive to the students. We understand that Judge Cameron is to be requested to become patron of the society.

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