

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1855. NO. 40.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

EVERY MORNING.

(SUNDAY EXCEPTED.)

AT VICTORIA, V. I.

Published every Tuesday morning.

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Three Months, do 3 50

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we will be bound to say that there is a large proportion of unpaid officials in the colonies than there is in England. Surely the writer must have got hold of that unfortunate communication of His Excellency bewailing the deplorable circumstance of there being no persons in the Comox or Cowichan districts able and willing to assume material duties. Whether he did so or not, one thing he should learn of colonial justices of the peace. He should know that their want of wealth and leisure does not enable them to look upon offences like poaching as the greatest crimes in the calendar. A starving man, suspected of shooting a hare or pheasant, does not in their vulgar eyes require any number of weary months of involuntary servitude to teach him the value of the law.

subject recognition of magisterial Dogberryism, nor are they especially cringing to the lord of the manor. They are, in fact, well all their own country, roughness, as much superior to the old country justices of the peace as the unpolished diamond is to the thing of paste.

The next specimen of the accurate and acute Reviewer is to be found in the statement that the better class of colonists keep away altogether from political life. Now, if he had said the better class occupy the foremost place in colonial politics, he would have been somewhat near the mark. Let him look at the men who control the destinies of the Australia and the North American Provinces and he will see that they compare favorably with that class of "wealth and leisure" so peculiarly attached to political life in England. The persons generally who eschew politics and take no interest in public affairs in the colonies, instead of being the "men of superior character and ability" are in nine cases out of ten the abject, money-grabbing class, whose souls never rise beyond making a few dollars out of their fellowmen by way of trade. It matters not to them if one half the population are in a state of starvation so long as they can grasp their cent per cent. Then we have the shrewd observation in reference to paid legislators, that "a stipend destroys the lustre of public service." How tarbed the British Crown must be by this time through the receipt of that \$200,000 yearly salary of the members of the House of Commons under the discolored effect of their yearly salaries! We are really afraid the Edinburgh Review has fallen into rather questionable hands. Such gross absurdities as are contained in the production we have been dissecting, are only equalled by the grosser absurdity of our contemporary in calling it "an able article, full of serious truths, and especially applicable to the exigencies of Vancouver Island."

THE CHURCH RESERVE

The following memorial, signed by the residents and property holders in the vicinity of the Church Reserve, will, we are given to understand, be presented to the Mayor and Council this evening. The document speaks in unmistakable terms, and will probably open another discussion on the vexed question. The Mayor will find that public opinion in regard to the present obstructions on the Reserve leans but one way; the nuisances, sooner or later, must come down, and His Worship must either obey the wishes of the people or resign.

We, the undersigned residents and property holders in the southeastern portion of the city and suburbs of Victoria, beg to represent to your Worship and Council, that the enclosing of the public property around Christ Church is an infringement of public rights.

First—As regards the owners of lots surrounding it, who bought in good faith that it was always to remain unenclosed.

Secondly—As regards the public generally, who have had ever since the settlement of the colony free and unrestricted use of it.

And we do solemnly declare the fences to be, in addition to an outrage on special and public rights, a continual obstruction to our unrestricted right of travel, an inconvenience and a nuisance to ourselves; and as such we pray your Worship and Council to take such action in the matter as may lead to their entire and immediate removal.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.—We received no dispatches from New Westminster on Saturday the wires being reported down again in Washington Territory owing to the bush fires always prevalent at this time of the year. The only item of news received by the *Columbian* is the following announcement under date New York, July 15th, taken from Denver papers of the 23d: Matamoros advises of the 8th from Imperial sources state that the Mexican Republicans under Negrette had finally been effectually scattered. They had been disbanded, and a number of them had taken refuge in Texas. The indications of approaching trouble between forces in Texas and the Imperialists were increasing.

ISLAND DIGGINGS.

Valuable Gold Discoveries!

Surface Diggings on the West Coast

From 4 to 8 Cents to the Pan

Mr. Buttle's Report.

On Thursday afternoon a party was raised from its state of lethargy by the arrival of Mr. McCausland, one of the Government exploring party from the West Coast, the despatches containing the following information:

Very large fields—miles in length—and all pieces above one hundred feet deep. From the summit I got a good view in the direction of Comox, and in what I should judge the centre of the island, I saw a very large body of water—I should suppose twenty miles miles long. It is either a chain of lakes, or else one very large lake with islands in it. I took its bearings and forward a rough sketch. This is the only view I could obtain on account of the enormous high mountains rising on all sides. I saw several large glaciers in the deep gulches below me. There are several mountains about here that must be at least 8,000 feet above the level of the sea. There appears much more snow here than on the Coast of Rocky Mountains in the same latitude or in the same altitude.

I returned to the beach at 10 o'clock, and found the party waiting for me. They had been nearly dark when they struck it, they did not do anything till next day, when they found they had got a prospect of about four or five cents to the pan. They spent most of the day at this place, and it took them all day to get to the beach. They found the dirt paying the same all the way down, but getting better in the bottom. The bed rock is a kind of rotten blue limestone. The next day they continued by the river, meeting with the same results as before. On the 2nd finding the river became steeper, and that the prospect was getting better in places of better they continued on their way back. They prospected on the bank of the river and found a stratum of cement and gravel which they think will pay well. It is just above the bed rock and dips into the water. They say the river is well adapted for raising but good wages may be made with the rocks. With the exception of two canons the traveling is good, and a good pack trail could be made at small expense. It is the opinion of Mr. Hancock and Mr. Forgie that there are profitable and paying diggings on the river and its vicinity to employ several hundred men. There are a number of dry gulches and creeks coming into the river which it is thought might pay. There is a good amount of dirt in the river and some large boulders. With the bearer of this Mr. McCausland, I send the gold (about \$2 worth) washed out by Hancock and Forgie. It is the result of three pans of dirt averaging about six cents to the pan. Mr. McCausland who is an able experienced miner will give you particulars and impart more information than I can.

I should wish it to be understood by the public that if they intend to come here to mine to come prepared at least with more than a pick, pan, and shovel, for I think by the men's report there is likely to be extensive diggings to be met with. This season will be short, for I don't suppose they will be able to work after the middle or fore part of November.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, (Signed) JOHN BUTTLE, Commander of Exploring Expedition.

THE BIG BEND COUNTRY.

From the *Columbian*, taken out by the following letter, written at Fort Kamloops on the 30th ult., by Mr. Ladner, and which has been kindly placed at our disposal by W. J. Armstrong, Esq., of this city, will afford some interesting information respecting a section of the country which is attracting considerable interest just now.

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We are going to try and take the train and some beef cattle to the new diggings. I saw enough to satisfy me that there was sufficient to justify us, in doing so. The road is very bad, so much so that there will have to be a great deal of work done before we can get through. I wrote a few lines to Moberly who has gone to the South Arm of the Lake to explore, requesting him to help us to get through, which I think he will do.

There are two places that prospect very good. One is Carnes Creek, about 20 miles below Death Rapids, the other about 20 miles above on a tributary of Gold Creek, called French Creek. It is two miles below where the old Indian trail strikes the Columbia River. They prospect very good indeed, although there has not been much gold taken out yet as the freshets came on so soon after they were started. I saw a number of men that I knew, and they all agreed that it is from 250 to 300 miles from the diggings to the line, and they re-ate a number of hair-breadth escapes, and a number did lose their boots and goods. They appear to think that it is bound to be a road opened, this way that it is bound to take the trade of that part of the country; but I think the Government should try and open a pack trail that would be passable until they see whether there is enough to justify them in making a wagon road. It is reported here that there has been an arrangement made between the Hudson Bay Co. and the Government that if the former will put on a steamer the latter will build a wagon road. As to their being a steamer built on the Columbia River it is all both. There is some machinery at the Dalles, and a part of the lumber sawed at Colville Mills, that would do to build a steamer, but that is all that's done.

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