

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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THE BRITISH COLONIST

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Published every Tuesday morning.

Arrival of H.M.S. Sparrowhawk.

This steamer arrived in Esquimalt Sunday night at half past 8 o'clock, without a mail. She left San Francisco on the 18th at 2:30 p.m., having arrived there the day before at 4:30 p.m., and made the run down in 3 days and 22 hours. Through the courtesy of Commander Porcher we are in receipt of San Francisco papers to the 18th.

CALIFORNIA.

There has been a disgraceful riot among the firemen in San Francisco. An alarm of fire was given, and some of the companies coming into collision; rough and tumble fight ensued. Pistol shots were exchanged and several men were injured. Four of the rioters have been arrested and three companies have been suspended by Chief Engineer Scannell.

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

New York, December 12.—Foreign files by the Asia give details of the cattle plague in England. The number of cases reported for the week ending November 18th was 2,659, the grand total since the outbreak of the disease being 27,432, of which 8,998

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived Saturday from Burrard's Inlet with 33 passengers and an express. Among the passengers were Messrs. Gas. Wright and W. Lader, who it will be seen by a notice elsewhere interested in the contracts for patting out the wagon road and steam communication to the Columbia River, and the project of a road on the subject is that the Government could not have fallen into the hands of Capt. Irving, who together with Messrs. Smith and Lader will form a company, obtains no monopoly for the boat from the Government, but simply a subsidy of \$400 a month for the service.

From Yale, Mr. Grant, of Soda Creek, and a number of others arrived at New Westminster from Yale in a canoe on Monday. They met with no success in reaching Harrisonmouth. Mr. R. Smith of the firm of Smith & Lader, arrived at Lytton from the Big Bend country. Mr. Smith spoke in the most enthusiastic terms respecting these new mines. He reported the discovery of a new creek, which prospected well. The injury to the roads above Yale had been so far repaired as to render traffic easy, and teams were passing over the road between Yale and Lytton. The bridge at Boston Bar had been re-built.

From New Westminster.—About 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning a fire broke out on the second floor of Millard's store

on the second floor of Millard's store on the 26th inst. The party engaged in a game of cards, and the fire broke out through the woods, Mrs. Nield displaying an amazing amount of fortitude, and endurance under the extreme difficulties of a journey calculated to test the resources of the sterner sex. They met with no loss of consequence until Langley was reached, where they concluded to abandon their canoe and take themselves to terra firma.

Mr. Smith, who has just come from Big Bend mines where he has been for some time acting as Gold Commissioner and has consequently enjoyed an excellent opportunity of obtaining correct information, has been kind enough to furnish us with the following items of news: The weather up to the time Mr. Smith left (24th Nov.) had been very mild, and there was not more than three inches of snow on the upper banks. He made the distance to the head of Lake Shuswap in 10 days, meeting with 47 feet of snow on the Columbia, and 4000 lbs of snow on the Columbia.

Mr. Smith gives the amount of gold known to have been taken out as follows: French Creek, \$32,000; McCulloch's Creek, \$2700; Cann's Creek, \$3000; Total \$37,700. These figures may appear small, but it must be recollected that with a Gold Export Tax in force, so near to the American frontier, the Gold Commissioner would not be very likely to get full returns. Indeed, we imagine, that to double the figures given above would bring us nearer the real yield of these three creeks. But there is another feature of the case that ought not to be overlooked: Owing to the want of provisions and implements, the difficulty of contending against water and the lateness of the season at which nearly all the claims were prospected, whatever gold has been taken out may fairly be regarded as the result of two week's work for fifty men.

The Clemens Co., (The Discovery Co.) on McCulloch's Creek took out, in eight working days, with three men, an average of twenty ounces per day. The most taken out in one pan of dirt was \$105, and the largest piece weighed one and a half ounces. Good prospects have been obtained on several creeks emptying into Gold River, above French Creek; but it was too late to commence operations, and the claims were laid over till spring.

Mr. Smith expresses the utmost confidence in the richness of the diggings already discovered, and in the existence of a great breadth of rich ground yet untried by human foot or undisturbed by the pick and shovel of the prospector. There were about 25 men on the different creeks most of whom would winter there.

Previous to leaving the head of Shuswap Lake, Mr. Smith made arrangements for having the winter road to Columbia River kept open all the winter, so that not only will supplies be run in during winter, but there will be no obstruction to early ingress in the spring. Good bridges have been thrown across the two principal streams by the Government, so that foot passengers and pack animals will experience no difficulty in crossing over from Lake Shuswap to the waters of the Columbia River.

Passengers who arrived by the Enterprise on Saturday give additional highly satisfactory news from Big Bend, confirming all previously received. The Discovery company took out over thirty ounces the last day they worked.

FROM KOOTENAY
The news also continues to be satisfactory

Friend.
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