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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 7. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JULY 3, 1866. NO 34.

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War in Europe

Brief as is the European intelligence is that the telegraph wire brings us, it is nevertheless highly portentous. Though no actual collision is yet reported, war it would seem has really commenced in Europe, and by this time it is fair to conclude that two of the most formidable and best disciplined armies that could be brought face to face, by any two of the great European Powers, are now engaged in deadly conflict. The despatch after passing through so many hands, comes to us in a somewhat confused form, but we read that agreeably to the announcement of her representatives in the Federal Diet, *war has commenced*, producing as a matter of course "great commotion and financial depression throughout Germany." The despatch further says that the vote mobilizing the Federal army was regarded as an act of dissolution and hostility on the part of the States sustaining the vote, and the Prussian Representatives were withdrawn from the Diet on the 15th, the Prussian troops having previously entered Saxony and Hanover. No collision had so far been reported, but it is not within the bounds of probability that the Prussians would long be permitted to maintain an undisturbed footing in those Kingdoms, and Gen. Bendick it was believed, would immediately move forward and attack the Prussian lines. On the 16th, the Federal Diet held an extraordinary meeting to decide on the motion of Saxony, that Austrian Bavaria "be requested immediately to adopt such measures as were necessitated by the Prussian invasion." The result of that meeting is not given, but may be taken, we should say, as a foregone conclusion. The restrictions sought to be imposed by both Prussia and Austria on the questions to be determined at the proposed European Congress, rendered it obvious to the world that no pacific solution of the international differences could be arrived at, and in the meantime active military preparations were going on on both sides, while it became a mere question of time as to how, where and when an open rupture to precipitate a war, was to occur. On the 4th June, that wily statesman Bisarck, broke the ice with an inflated circular, in which he asserts that the "determination to make war is settled at Vienna, Austria having manifested an utter absence of all readiness to enter into confidential negotiations to discuss the possibilities of an agreement" and leaving no doubt that the Imperial Ministry "desire war at any price, partly in the hope of successes in the field, and partly to heal domestic difficulties—nay, even Austrian finances, by popular contributions or by honorable bankruptcy," The Prussian Minister then concludes with these ominous words. "The fact of war is settled by this determination at Vienna, and the only further point is *to choose a favorable time to begin.*" The sequel shows that the time had arrived. Prussia has seceded from the confederacy by withdrawing her representatives, and she now throws down the gauntlet, which Austria and her federal allies are not only ready but eager to pick up. The Prussians according to recent telegrams received, had moved into Holstein under Gen Fleiss and occupied the important positions of Kiel, Rendsburg and Fredericksstadt. The Austrian garrison at Rendsburg, an important stronghold on the Eyder, near the Schleswig frontier, finding itself outflanked, evacuated the post without a struggle, and the Austrian forces, under Goblentz, then concentrated at Altona, near Hamburg, which they also avacuated upon the approach of the Prussians in superior numbers. It is, however, in Silesia, Saxony, Hanover, or Bavaria, that the grand struggle for the mastery will no doubt take place. Prussia will have her hands full until Italy draws the sword; on the other hand the three Federal Kingdoms can bring into the field an army of 160,000 men. The next news from Europe will be fraught with interest, and the movements of the "master spirit of the age" who "hates the treaty of 1815" and has his eagle eye on the "map of Europe," will be anxiously scanned.

British Columbia.

Quesnellemouth, June 26.—The Cariboo *Sentinel*, of the 21st, has the following; June 19th.—Davis Co., *vs* Aurora Co. Both parties having consented to the reference of the whole case to the arbitration of the Chief Justice, the case came up for a final adjudication this morning. The Court room was crowded with eager listeners. The Judge remarked that the duty he had to proform to-day was [not ?] to decide as to the rights of parties, but to effect a treaty of peace. If he had known there would have been no conflict of evidence as to facts he would never have permitted a special jury to be called. Very often in equity and law courts, the Judge summons a jury simply for his advice, not to ascertain the law, but to determine the facts. Juries were called in courts of law to decide the facts, because we placed more reliance in the judgment of twelve men of one sort, than in that of one man of another sort. With regard to the finding of juries where a judge believes that a jury finds a verdict, contrary to the evidence resulting from ignorance, fear, or any other cause, it is his privilege to set aside their verdict and order a new trial. I can by no means agree with the finding of the jury, that the Aurora had failed to prove that they did not stake their ground by the 8th of August, 1864. If jury after jury were to find such a verdict it would not be permitted to stand. There is no miner on the Creek who could have established the staking of his ground so well as the Aurora Co., have done. The stakes are now standing there. I went on the ground myself and saw them a few days before the hearing of the case came on, in order to satisfy myself. I have not the slightest doubt that the stakes were put in on the 8th of August. Edwards, Hilton and Drew all are positive of this, and there is not scrap of evidence to rebut them unless it is that of two men who went on the ground for the purpose of jumping it. When men go to jump ground they do not see their enemies' stakes. It is not of much inportance whether the stakes were there on the 8th of August or not. I don't think there was a man or company on the whole hill side in 1864 that did not hear of the Borealis and Aurora Co's order then issued to the Davis Co., and knew that the Aurora Co., held a claim. That company had no right to put in their stakes there whether the Aurora Co. had staked or not; I never heard a clearer case than the present,

A mass meeting of the miners and residents of Cariboo was held in front of the Court-House at Richfield on Saturday evening last, and, notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, which during the afternoon was showery, a large concourse of people—perhaps the largest that has ever been convened in the Colony, and the first that has ever met in Cariboo—assembled at the appointed hour, 8 o'clock p. m. Considering the shortness of notice, it was surprising to observe the number of miners from the various camps in the vicinity of Williams Creek. Lightning, Lowhee, and Grouse Creeks were well represented, and altogether there could not have been less than from 500 to 600 men present. The meeting by acclamation appointed Mr C. Fulton to act as Chairman, and Mr Huskinson as Secretary. The Chairman, with a few remarks introduced Mr Murdock, who proposed the first resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the administration of the mining laws by Mr Justice Begbie in the Supreme Court is partial, dictatorial and arbitrary, in setting aside the verdict of juries, and calculated to create a feeling of distrust in those who have to seek redress through a Court of Justice. This was seconded by Mr Towers and carried.

The second resolution was as follows:

Resolved, That this meeting pledges itself to support the Government in carrying out the laws in their integrity, and begs for an impartial adminstration of justice; to this end we desire the establishment of a Court of Appeal, or the immediate removal of Mr Justice Begbie, whose acts in setting aside the law have destroyed confidence, and are driving labor, capital and enterprise out of th Colony. This resolution was proposed by Mr John McLaren, seconded by Mr Frank Perrett and carried.

The third resolution was:

Resolved, That a Committee of two persons be appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, with the foregoing resolutions, and earnestly impress upon him the immediate necessity of carrying out the wishes of the people.

This resolution was proposed by Mr George Murdock and seconded by Mr Thomas Simpson.

The Chairman proposed that Messrs J. McLaren and Frank Laumeister be appointed a Committee to wait upon His Excellency the Administrator of the Government with the foregoing resolutions, which, being put to the meeting, was carried by acclamation, the meeting at the same time pledging themselves to defray the expense of the journey.

Three cheers were then given for Judge Cox, the VICTORIA CHRONICLE, *British Columbian* and *Colonist* newspapers, the Chairman and the Secretary, the Cariboo *Sentinel* and the Queen, and three groans for Judge Begbie. The meeting then adjourned.

Immediately on the adjournment of the mass meeting, the whole multitude waited on his honor, Gold Commissioner Cox, at his residence, for the purpose of presenting him with an elegant gold mounted walking cane as a token of the high respect and esteem entertained for him as a just and upright administrator of the laws, by the miners of Cariboo. The inscription was as follows:—Presented to W. G. Cox, Esq., Gold Commissioner, by the miners of Williams Creek, Cariboo, 1866. The cane cost something like $250.

Prices continue as at former quotations with the exception of nails and sugar, which retail at 37 cents per pound.

Two Chinamen wree arrested at Barkerville on a charge of robbing sluice boxes on Lowhee creek on Saturday night last

Quesnelle, June 26—The Cariboo stage has just arrived. Messrs Laumeister and McLaren are here on their way to New Westminster. The roads to Cariboo are becoming passable for wagons. The steamer only makes one trip this week from Soda Creek; weather rather warm but pleasant. Nothing of importance occurring.

The *Sentinel* of the 25th has the following from Grouse Creek: The prospects of this creek are becoming more encouraging every day and if the rich strikes which are reported continue to be made, we anticipate a large accession to the numbers at present on that creek. Almost every claim that has been prospected is turning out well, and there is no doubt that the creek will pay for a considerable distance above and below where claims are at present located. The Short Bend Co., on Thursday last, got as high as $30 to the pan and on Friday, $18. They washed up 75 ounces on Saturday, being the result of three hours' labor of one man's picking. The gold is very coarse—some of the pieces weighing from $30 to $40. The French Co., next adjoining the Discovery claim, got 7 ounces and $12 to the pan of dirt on Friday last. The Ne'er do Well Co. got a prospect of $68 to one pan of dirt last week. They washed up yesterday 50 ounces for the two previous days. We saw one piece, which weighed 2¾ ounces and another two ounces, taken out of this claim.

On another creek there are about 120 Chinamen engaged in mining; a good many are hired by white men to work in their claims The Ross and Neil Co's are doing well.

BIG BEND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

MCCULLOCH'S CREEK.

Is small, falls rapidly among rocks and cañons out of the mountain, and, running through a flat, empties into Riviere aux Castors. The town (half a dozen log buildings) is close under the hill, and all around it is staked off and recorded for mining purposes. Deep shafts not yet striking bed rock, and cuts and tunnels in the side hill are in progress. Here too was a derrick for removing boulders, brought all the way from New Westminster by one of the litigants for the Discovery claim, a portion of which was jumped, (I am told) by Frank Began, on the termination of the lawsuit. Here, as on French Creek, all who were actually employed were hopeful and cheery, and all who were idle were gloomy and desponding. Among the former I learned that there were from seven to eleven companies above the cañon taking out from $5 to $15 per day to the hand from the surface gravel. Two or three hours climbing brought me to "the flats," on which I found that men were working with a will. Here James Orr, lately of Wilson & Murray, Victoria, has an interest which was paying him at the rate of $12 per day. This was considered one of the best claims. All along the creek men were locating, building shanties and preparing to give the creek a good prospecting. Many of them have a good deal of this surface dirt to wash, and are hurrying it through as they want to get below the clay or hard pan, and try the bed-rock. In two places this has been done by the Yale Co., at 27 feet deep, and the Rough and Ready, at six feet; both found the rock smooth, pitching at a steep angle toward the creek; the former found large boulders interposing and could not drift, had no blasting material, and their means were giving out. Two of them came to Seymour for jawbone; one went to French creek. I saw another returning up the creek through the snow in the morning with a pack of flour. This is how the Big Bend is pioneered. Is it any wonder that men with small means turn back from prospecting? Mr. Jeffray of Victoria, sold a claim near James Orr for $300, which was considered very cheap. The higher up the stream they go they find the gold coarser, impregnated with quartz, and, from its new jagged appearance, evidently but little washed. I saw some pieces in Mr. Babbitt's store, from one of the upper claims, which looked as though just broken from the rock. The strongest hopes were entertained of valuable quartz discoveries being made at no great distance. A few weeks sought to determine the character of the bed-rock and all eyes are directed to that point. Numbers of men are waiting in all quarters to hear from it, and upon what they hear will depend the business of the present season.

MINER'S OPINIONS.

[illegible] of many of [illegible] years prospectors that before two months there will be a total change for the better in the Big Bend country and some even go so far as to predict a greater rush in mid-summer than during the past spring. In conversing on French Creek with a man direct from Blackfoot, I was informed that droves were leaving that region and would come through to British Columbia if our mines were only open and yielding gold. We may not be too late yet for the rush from Montana. Parties are out prospecting on Moberly, Carnes, Camp and Dowbie creeks, along on the bars and benches of the Columbia, and in a hundred other streams unknown to the maps of the Colony. During a long conversation I had with Hank Carnes, whom I take to be an excellent judge of the merits of the country as he certainly is one of the most extensive travellers through it, he told me that he had prospected all the way from the head water of the Columbia down to Kooteny, and had never failed to get "the color." I had previously met a miner going to shovel snow on the Divide to obtain grub to prospect as he told me that about five miles behind La Porte, he found a great basin which prospected well and seemed to him capable of supporting a thousand miners; and on telling Hank he replied that the basin was watered by a tributary of Downs-river, and added the statement given above. He himself was about to take down some of his old comrades in his boat to Carnes creek where he was paying assessments, and was confident of success. He corroborated in every particular, the narratives given by Nobles, Veullet and others in the *Chronicle* last winter, and assured me that he knew of none of the discoverers who were not hard at work in the country. Mere opinions on the resources of Big Bend in the main are only conjectures and many of those lately publised sound absurd up here but if the prospectors would receive with attention the "guesses" of any one among them they would be those of the unassuming explorer who commanded the prospecting expedition of last year up the Columbia Hank Carnes. J. W. D.

NEW CONSTITUTION OF SWEDEN.—So busy are we with the restoration of our Union to its former strength and equipoise, and so overburdened with governmental theories of our own, that most of us have neglected to notice a very remarkable evidence of progress in constitutional liberty which has lately been consummated in a European kingdom—the adoption of a new constitution in Sweden. This event has resounded already throughout Europe, and has created no little excitement amongst thinking people, especially in the neighboring countries, and most particularly in Germany, Prussia and Austria, and even in some parts of France. What is the strangest part of the story, the liberal constitution was pushed through by the energy of the King, who was not to be thwarted. The opposition came principally from a portion of the Chambers, and at one time, it was so great as to create fears of a serious outbreak at Stockholm. Accordingly a considerable body of troops was sent to the capital; and thus it is hardly extravagant to say that liberal institutions were forced into Sweden by a monarch at the points of his bayonets! In Prussia, which is now one of the most despotic of the European kingdoms, this coup d'etat for liberty has provoked, very naturally, the strongest hostility, and the downfall and destruction of Sweden are there prophesied, as the sure results of the movement in favor of civilization and free institutions. The King of Sweden, however—known chiefly to us, perhaps as a grandson of Bernadotte, is loved by his subjects everywhere, and with an affection equal to that of France for her Henry IV, and no less esteemed and venerated for his admirable qualities as a great ruler.—*N. Y. Times.*

PIRACIES IN THE CHINA SEAS:—The pirates and coolies in the China waters continue to pursue their nefarious trade with a high hand. The ship Napoleon Canevara, owned by N. Larco, of this city, was destroyed by fire in the China Sea; no date. It appears that the ship had on board 650 Chinese emigrants, who mutined and set fire to the vessel, the captain and crew escaping in small boats, which were picked up and taken to Laigon. Another ship the Mahe, was attacked by Chinese pirates, March 10th, near the Ladrone Islands, but after a vigorous fight the miscreants were driven off. The ship Conqueror, from Hongkong for Bangkok, was also attacked a few days previous. One of the crew was killed and six of the pirates before the latter was repulsed. The frequency with which these attacks are made upon merchant vessels in China waters demands immediate action on the part of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, France and other maritime countries, with the view to putting down these modern Vikings.

From the West Coast.

The schooner Alert, Capt. Francis, arrived yesterday from the N. W. Coast of the Island having been absent about 20 days. The schooner went up as far as Kayuquot trading for oil and skins. Found trade middling, weather fair with occasional rain. Capt. Francis informs us that the Indians are getting very saucy and troublesome. On reaching Clayoquot Sound June 14th, he commenced trading oil and was engaged in paying one of them in a half a bucket of molasses when an Indian standing by took hold of the cask and held it so that they could not stop it from running out, saying "why don't you fill it full?" The bucket was pulled away by the captain and seeing the molasses running on deck, the Indian desisted. He then said to the captain, Are you not afraid? you know I killed a white man (Barney) before! I am not afraid of your men-of-war; they don't know how to fight, we had to help them to fight the Ahousetts. The captain dare not resent the Indian's insolence.

There are two or three vessels now fitting out for fishing on the Coast, and it would be a wise precaution on the part of the authorities to afford these enterprising men who are striving to develop the resources of the country, all the protection they can by dispatching a gun boat at once to the Coast to overawe the Indians, for whatever they may say traders assert that the natives have a great dread of the men-of-war.

ADDITIONAL.

Captain Spring, of the schooner Surprise, who also arrived from the West Coast last evening, informs us that he found the Indians at the entrance of Barclay Sound very insolent. The natives seem bent upon brewing a disturbance, and the necessity for a ship of war showing herself on the coast is apparent. If allowed to go on with impunity their presumption may culminate in a disaster similar to what befel the unhappy Kingfisher.

Death of a Hawaiian Princess.

[From the San Francisco Bulletin.]

The death of Princess Victoria of Hawaii, promises to raise complications in the government of that kingdom which are likely to prove very prejudicial to American interests. Under the law the deceased Princess acted as a check upon hasty legislation, her signature being necessary to the enactment of all laws. Being a warm friend to the United States, the intrigues of both the French and English members of the Royal Cabinet met with but little success during her life. By her death the present king, Kamehameha V., stands alone the last of his royal line, and who will fill the place of the late Princess in office under the law, is not known. The present King is single and his state of health gives no hope of long life. His reign, like those of his predecessors, will undoubtedly be a short one. In case of his death there will likely be four claimants to the throne, none of whom has actual right to the same, and to the claim of no one of them is it likely that the nation will give an undivided support. One of the claimants will be Prince William, a cousin of the present King, whose habits were so intemperate that he was set aside from succession to the throne by Kamehameha III. Although a man of good order of intellect, his dissipation is such that he is not allowed the management of his own property. David Kalikeon, the present King's Chamberlain, is a claimant through the high rank of his mother, and also through being the reputed natural son of Kamehameha III. The above two claimants are of pure Hawaiian blood, while the remaining two—Queen Emma, wife of the late King, and Mrs Bishop, wife of A. C. Bishop, banker of Honolulu, are of half white parentage: Queen Emma was at last accounts in London, and from report was very much under the influence of Episcopacy, of which the so-called Reformed Catholic Church at the Islands is a zealous branch. She had no claims to the throne, save through her marriage to the late king. Mrs Bishop was lately in San Francisco, and claims through her mother, who held high rank in the kingdom. It will thus be seen that not one of the four claimants has an undoubted right to the throne, and really possess no qualifications that cannot be as well claimed by the others. It is consequently obvious, that on the demise of the present King foreign influences adverse to the United States will be brought into use to elect some one of the claimants most favorable to the desired interest, or failing of this, to negotiate away the sovereignty of the Islands to France or England (the former in all probability) under the plea of a protectorate like that of Tahiti. That such protectorate will make the kingdom a virtual colony to such foreign power, Tahiti is a clear example. The open annexation of these Islands to France or England would not be more thorough than a so-called protectorate. All the material interests of the Kingdom of Hawaii are essentially American, the vast bulk of property there belonging to our people, who have brought the native population from a state of barbarism to that of civilization. The great part of our whaling fleet semi-yearly rendezvous at the ports, and in the common sequence of events these Islands should in time become an integral portion of the United States. By their geographical position their possession by France or England would be a standing menace by those countries against our commerce in the Pacific, crippling us at once in case of war, without opportunity of retaliation in kind. The cabinet of the present King is mainly composed of English and French, with a few Americans, who during the late rebellion showed that their sympathies were with the enemies of our Goverment. Under all the circumstances, our Government should be ready to meet the complications which will arise through the death of the late Princess Victoria, and be prepared for the contingencies which will attend the extinction of the race of Hawaiian Kings through the demise of present King.