

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1866.

NO. 17.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

VERY MORNING

Published every Tuesday morning.
Six Months, \$3 00
Three Months, \$1 50
Single Copies, 10 cents.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Published every Tuesday morning.
Six Months, \$3 00
Three Months, \$1 50
Single Copies, 10 cents.

AGENTS.
John Mestlin, Nanaimo
Dankson & Co., New Westminster
Bernard's Express, Quenelle, B.C.
L. P. Fisher, San Francisco
G. Aigar, Clement's Lane, London
G. Street, 30 Cornhill, London

A COLONIAL COMPARISON.

There is an immense consolation in knowing that other people are as unfortunate as ourselves—that other colonies are behind in their receipts, excessive in their expenditure, unfortunate in their policy system, and miserable generally. On the Eastern Coast of Central America is a strip of country about 130 miles long and 50 miles wide, known as Belize or British Honduras. It is a British Colony, has a Lieutenant-Governor who gets \$1,300 a year, a Legislature which is embraced in one House of eighteen elected and three nominated members, and a newspaper which does not seem to have its space much encroached upon by advertisements. Of population it has about 26,000, nearly one-half of whom, however, are composed of Indians, mixed breeds, and Spaniards. Like the colony of Vancouver Island, Belize is just now crying for retrenchment. The revenue has fallen off considerably since 1864, while the expenditure has, if anything, increased; the demand for the reduction of the outlay of Government is, therefore, natural. Belize is, however, not only inferior

to the colony of Vancouver Island, but also to the colony of British Honduras. It is a fellow-sufferer in British Honduras. There are other points of comparison between the two colonies. Belize is on the eve of a general election and Vancouver Island will before the expiration of many months be in the same position. In the political turmoil in Honduras the voice of the *Belize Colonist*, in rather curious phraseology, declares that "the vital and important question to be decided is how to frame a scheme for raising the revenue that will neither be oppressive to the poor or favor the rich—it is a crisis in the legislation of British Honduras, which calls and demands grave and serious consideration." Whether the new legislators will succeed in bringing forward a scheme of taxation that will not oppress the poor nor favor the rich, it would be difficult to say. Just now the revenue which bears a close comparison to that of Vancouver Island the present year, is about \$180,000, and is collected by an *ad valorem* duty on some articles of 1 per cent, and on others of 3%. Wines, spirits, &c., come in for a specific duty of about on the average 50 cents per gallon. On neat cattle there is a dollar a head imposed, and on horses, mules and asses \$3. There is a tax besides of \$5 on every horse kept in the colony, \$3 on every wheel of a vehicle, and \$1 on every dog. Lumber, although one of the principal exports of the country, is taxed \$2 per thousand. Liquor licenses in the towns are \$200 a year.

Belize, like Victoria, has a volunteer force and a very effective one too, numbering 175 men. By recent papers we find that two soldiers were arrested and taken to prison for disorderly conduct—a circumstance which caused quite a commotion among the military stationed in the place. Rumors spread rapidly in warm countries, and the major of the volunteers was soon placed in possession of the alarming fact that the soldiers were going to attack the prison and liberate the culprits. Quick as lightning the volunteers were in readiness and marched to the rendezvous to be placed under the order of the Lieutenant-Governor. The martial corps however was not required; for the stray soldiers who had sauntered from the garrison, and who had caused the alarm, were driven to the barracks by the pickets. The volunteers felt relieved by the news, and doubly so when they found they were entirely destitute of powder. Belize not only shows some little resemblance to this colony in its extent of territory, in its

politics, in its financial and social condition and in its volunteers, but also in its sports. We find by a flaming advertisement in the local paper, that races were to have come off on the course, including in the programme grey nags, ladies' paces, volunteer stakes and carter's paces. We hope, however, the comparison does not extend to contemporary literature; for of all the newspapers we are in the habit of receiving from British Colonies we think the Honduras journal bears the palm as a curiosity. Its orthography and its syntax are about as erratic and as varied as the editor appears himself. Now we see him in an advertising notice as editor and proprietor of the paper, ready to do every description of printing, from a card to a magnificent illuminated title page, and to become a notary public, to be found during certain hours at the office of the journal; again he advertises himself as a land surveyor, and in one of the most conspicuous notices in the paper informs the public that he is an auctioneer, ready to sell anything from a needle to a crowbar. With such versatility of talent, we have no doubt about the paper's success.

The exports and imports of this little colony show a much more flourishing state of things than the affairs of government. The imports are a little over \$1,300,000, and the exports about \$2,000,000. Mahogany, tobacco, and tropical productions generally form the exported commodities. Cotton has been tried, but, owing to some unaccountable circumstance, failed the first year. Some of the planters, however, have not been deterred by the want of success, but have gone boldly into a second year's crop. Taking it altogether, Belize is a colony that, despite its recent misfortunes, has much more substantial prosperity within it than is to be found in more pretentious dependencies of the British Crown.

COMOX ROAD DISPUTE.

COMOX, Feb. 29, 1866.
To THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir.—The old adage "give a dog a bone and he is sure to growl" has been fully verified here of late. The bone in this instance being the Comox road. Since the summer of '62 this has been a subject of more or less importance, at present it is a subject of great interest, and during the past four years the only means of traffic has been on ways prepared by the Admiralty, with the aid of private enterprise. Government has been applying from time to time to make roads from here to Victoria, but, alas, the exchequer could not stand it, after the "forty thousand dollars mistake." Road commissioners have been appointed, have held their quarterly meetings, appointed assessors, overseers, &c. The assessment roll has been made out, and taking the initiative, the Commissioners, six in number, with the assistance of the two overseers, proceeded to lay out the roads, completing their task at the expiration of four days. They laid out one main road a chain wide from the bay to the extreme end of the settlement, occupying the most central position practicable, running in proximity to the base line most of the way; a branch road to Green's Landing, and a branch road for each side of the prairie half a chain wide, intersecting the main road at the shortest possible angle. For general accommodation, easiness of construction, and choice of ground, I think it could not be better. But the human family is so constituted that however small a community you may be placed in you will find the usual compliment of growlers; one wants the road this way, another that, a straight line to the bay from each individual door, irrespective of location, seems to be the maxim regardless of expense or injury. The roads that are laid out would convene a settlement three times its size, and yet some would have three main roads a chain wide running through a tier of claims containing a hundred acres each, and in some places it is not more than thirty chains from bush to bush; still the boards would occupy the prairie, coming in at one angle and going out at another. Now I should surmise, in a settlement where the roads are to be made by statute labor and the population rather limited, the least amount would be soonest mended. Why, sir, I sum up the whole amount of produce sent out of this settlement for the past year in two sloop loads. Really it is to be lamented that men possessed of minds of such extensive calibre, had not a larger field for operation. I would ask, what encouragement there is to the pioneers to go into the savage wilds and pre-empt land when the only patch of prairie which induced them to settle, (and I can assure you there are some very small ones here which seem to have had the desired effect) can be cut up indiscriminately into roads to gratify the whims of those who may follow after. In the first place when a man pre-empted unsurveyed land he is not certain that he will retain the house he has erected for his home, and if he should be so fortunate, and also retain a part or whole of the patch of ground he thought was his, after four years of uncertainty, which has been the case here, then to have it made a public conveyance which three roads together with swamps, creeks and bog-holes would render it, I repeat where is the encouragement? I am informed that no individual settler would have to go twenty chains out of a straight line on the present roads to get to his destination, yet I actually heard a growler while advocating three roads most pathetically exclaim, that his farm was literally ruined, and Sir, he repeated it twice, and foretooth why? Because a branch road half a chain wide runs straight through his claim at right angles. Such logic I

leave at the public mercy. But enough of this: the roads have been suspended for the present and a request sent to Victoria for a paid official to come up and survey out the roads. These bugbears are no doubt thrown out to retard operations until bloughing and seed time, which it will be further postponed. Another year will roll round and perchance some who prefer shooting ducks to doing statute labor will have by that time sought some more genial climate to pursue their avocations; perhaps like the old Mexican he in the shade of a tree and wait for something to turn up. "One word more: in case any more such "Corobories" take place as that held at the *Chuxuk* the other day, when the pulpit very nearly became a receptacle for hate and spite while the owners went outside to knock down the argument, I would suggest some smooth greasy substance in a quiet spot under the shade of a tree and old oil on the pulpit.

The weather has been remarkably fine for the past month affording the settlers ample opportunity for getting ready for the spring work. The cattle are kicking up their heels in the prairies, as much as to say, We are as good as our masters and perhaps a little better, for we hear "Jaw bone" is played out. There are any amount of Euclataws here but all are quietly disposed and seem to be living on remarkably good terms with the settlers. The Rev. Mr. Cave has been absent for the past fortnight on a visit to Victoria. We shall welcome his return.

Yours truly,
SPECTATOR.

LETTER FROM COMOX.

COMOX, February 23rd, 1866.
THE ROAD QUESTION.
To THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST:—Sir.—Why do not Government mark out a line of road through a settlement when they see it becoming well populated? As I told you in my last we were about to commence the road. Well, our Road Commissioners, five in number, were four days at work marking out a line and trying to please everybody, and as a matter of course pleased very few. Those who were not pleased got up a kind of indignation meeting and protested against a greater part of it. The matter is now to be referred to the Surveyor General, so that we shall lose about a month in a most excellent time of the year for getting out timber and making bridges across the numerous creeks and sloughs. I trust Mr. Pease will see to it quickly and decide for us. Mr. Pidwell came up here some time in the middle of last year and talked a great deal about a road, and that was about all he did. If he had attended to his duty we should have had none of this bother.

But, however, the meeting brought out one "developing our resources," and talked big about "gold and coal." I believe there is the color of one and a seam of the other a short distance from us. PROGRESS OF THE SETTLEMENT. There are 5,800 acres of land taken up in Comox, about 4,000 of which are open prairie. The settlers (some 70 in number, including women and children) own 150 milch cows, 50 head of work oxen, 9 horses, about 100 head of other cattle, and 300 or 400 pigs. Barns are going up everywhere, and there are about 20,000 rails split for further enclosures. So let us get our road through (Government giving us the \$1500 voted, which we shall require to finish it), keep up our steam communication regularly, and I think I can say to my fellow settlers "it is our opening year." In about two months' time I will send you a return of lands enclosed and cultivated, also an account of our raising stock, just to show you we are not idle.

THE WEATHER.
We have had some splendid open weather, quite warm by day but very cold nights, until Monday, when heavy rain set in. This morning we had a fall of snow.
Yours respectfully,
A COMOX FARMER.

DOD'S PEEPAGE.—The twenty-sixth annual edition of this compendium of English aristocracy is published. While other Peepage books furnish pedigrees of the various families, this volume is limited to a description of living persons, of whom it contains the names of between 7,000 and 8,000. Among the new titles recently bestowed we find the following particulars respecting Mr. Goschen.—Goschen, Privy Councillor. Created 1865.—Right Hon. George Joachim Goschen, son of William Henry Goschen and Henrietta, his wife. Born 1831, married 1857, Lucy, daughter of John Dalley, Esq.; educated at Rugby and at Oriel College, Oxford; is a merchant in London, one of the firm of Messrs. Frubling and Goschen, Austrians; is author of 'The Theory of the Foreign Exchanges'; appointed Vice-President of the Board of Trade and Paymaster General, November, 1865, salary £2000, on which occasion he was sworn in a Privy Councillor; has been M.P. for London since May, 1863. Residence—Eltham, Kent.

The missionary ship John Williams left the Downs on the 8th, with five ministers who have been appointed by the London Missionary Society to the following stations at the South Sea Islands, viz:—The Navigators' Islands, the Revs. A. Michi, S. H. Davies and W. J. Watson, Raratonga, Rev. James Chalmers.—Heavenly, Rev. A. T. Saville. The missionaries are accompanied by their families.

Professor Simeon, of Edinburgh, whose name is so widely known in connection with the discovery of the anæsthetic properties of chloroform, has been created a baronet. This is said to be the first time a baronetcy has been given to a Scottish professor or to a medical practitioner in Scotland.

ENGLISH ITEMS.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* announces that two companies of each battalion of the line will be reduced in the ensuing year. This statement is said to be exaggerated, or at least premature. All that is as yet talked of is the reduction of two companies in each of the battalions serving in the United Kingdom, and not more than 50 regiments will be affected by this step. The ship *Euphonia*, laden with Shotton gas coal, was the scene of an explosion on the 5th, whilst lying in Hartlepool Dock. The deck was torn to pieces, and the captain and a boy severely injured. The explosion was extremely heavy, and the entire shipboard was aroused, the entire shipping being in danger for some time. The *Globe* confirms the statement that Mr. Mallet and Mr. Cobden have been associated with Mr. Cobden in the commercial negotiations at Paris. At the meeting of the new Parliament, Mr. Denison's reelection to the Speakership—to which apparently no opposition will be offered—will be moved by Mr. Monseil and seconded by Earl Grosvenor. The address in reply to the speech from the throne will be moved in the House of Commons by Lord Cavendish and seconded by Mr. Graham, one of the members for Glasgow. A wedding party met at Batley on the 4th instant, consisting of 48 persons (nearly all members of the families of the bride or bridegroom), 38 of whom are abstainers from intoxicating drinks, fourteen never having tasted them. There were three ministers of the Gospel and one member of the Executive of the United Kingdom Alliance also present.

At one of the recent *seances* of the Davenport Brothers at Hanover-square Rooms, London, a gentleman present managed to seize the spirit hand at the window. The audience encouraged him to hold on till the cabinet could be opened; but he was unable to do so for long, as he declared the hand wriggled so that it got out of his clutch, though it was as much flesh and blood as his own hand. On Monday forenoon last a fire broke out in St. Katharine's Docks. After a large piece of property had been destroyed, the fire was believed to be extinguished; but in the course of a few hours it burst forth again in two places, and under circumstances that have excited suspicion that an incendiary has been at work. It is supposed that £200,000 will not cover the damage.

The *London Globe* says:—The last week of the last year was characterized by a high rate of mortality. The deaths in the eleven months ending on the 31st of the month, London is amongst the lowest, being at the rate of 28—Liverpool is as high as 47. The total number of deaths in London was 1,603, which was 62 above the computed average number. The births were 1,074, which is 180 below the average. The Registrar General adds in his report that 232 persons were killed in the streets of London last year through carriage accidents.

A Norfolk and Norwich "Tory Club" is announced in the local papers, the object of which is to enable Churchmen holding Tory principles to combine for political purposes. It says, "All Tories, whether electors or non-electors, who adhere to the Catholic teaching of the Church of England, and accept the Prayer Book in its integrity, and are resolved to resist all attempts to alter or revise it, are eligible as members." In the *Times* of the 9th the deaths of four ladies and two gentlemen are recorded, whose united ages amounted to 519 years, giving an average of 86 years and six months to each. The ladies as usual took precedence, the average of their ages reaching so high as 87 years and nine months each, whereas the gentlemen only averaged 84 years. The oldest lady was 95, and the youngest 82. The oldest gentleman was 88, and the youngest 80.

There are more arrears in the Court of Chancery for the ensuing term than known for some time. The appeals are considerable. Dr. Livingstone has been presented with £450 r/s (£645) by the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, in aid of his projected exploration of Africa. Mr. J. S. Cathcart, the actor, died on New Year's day. Up to the time of his death he was one of the most popular members of the company at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester. The death of Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., is announced. He died on the 6th, in the 68th year of his age. Born in 1789, he succeeded his uncle, the first baronet, in 1841, and is succeeded in his turn by his son, Astley Paston, who is now in his 42d year. A miller, named Anderson, who lived at Coyton, near Ayr, was attempting to cross a ford the other night, when the cart in which he, his wife, and a servant were seated, was carried away by the flood. The whole party perished. A list of cases for the approaching term of the Divorce Court has just been issued. It bears an improving appearance. There are only 81 cases set down for hearing, besides 26 standing over by consent of the parties. The man who threatened to shoot the chief officer of the Reading police, and who, it was alleged, went to Windsor for the purpose of assassinating the Queen, was committed for trial on the 6th. He gives his name as Wilhelm Kirchoff, and says he is a Prussian. The Queen has been pleased to sanction the following appointments: William Kelson Martin, Esq., to be a member of the Legislative Council of the Island of Antigua; and Henry Berkeley, Esq., to be treasurer for that island. On Thursday the 4th, the Bank rate of discount was advanced to 8 per cent.

"TWADDLING SENSATIONS OF ANONYMOUS WRITERS."

To THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST, Sir.—Such is the language used by the experienced and presumptive editor of the *Chronicle* towards the letter writers of the press, than to whom no portion of it owes more than the same journal. Their productions are not from the hiring's pen, and are read when the editorials are passed over. It is to be regretted when the "tone" of a newspaper is lowered in the scale, and language adopted that is not only vulgar in the extreme, but expressions are used which are associated with filthy ideas. The proprietors of the *Daily Chronicle* are advised to caution their invisible pen to be more cautious in the compliments he pays to his supporters; let him not assume the character in the play and cry out—

When a penny worth of dog bark, or he may have to leave; but some of the "twaddlers" can expose some of his twaddling. Your leading article in this morning's *Chronicle* is quite to the point. You have placed the police department fairly before the public—it is the want of system not the want of men that is the cause of the inefficiency of the force. But there seems a determination on the part of the police authorities not to act. The apathetic public have been at length awake to their unprotected position, and the question now is, not what will the House of Assembly do? but what will the Governor, who has assumed to be the head of the establishment, what will he do? If the Chief Justice and our Grand Jury are to be hoodwinked, it does not follow that there are people wide awake who could see the scheme—the trick—in not having the prisoners by 10 o'clock at the Court House (the Police Court does not sit until 11 o'clock, and a little delay would be no unusual circumstance). The excuse given that there were no policemen to guard the prisoners is nonsense; handcuff them and run a chain along them, and three or four officers could convey them in safety through the streets in broad daylight—murderers, and sodomites, and burglars have few sympathisers in Victoria: There is no fear of the cry of "Fenians to the Rescue!"

The *Chronicle* volunteers to defend the non-action of the police; they may well say, "save me from my friends!" for after a long piece under the heading "Our Police Force," full of such big words and sentences as "showers of opprobrium," "past experience of the blue coats," "enthusiastic admiration," "stale ridicule," "garulous abuse," "showering them with opprobrium," etc., etc., it put the question, "how much their censurers would do for the same money?" Here, then, is the secret of the non-action of the police, told by their defenders. Will the public stand this? Will they not ask his question, and if they do not, not asking the question, am I paid for doing this or doing that? The *Chronicle* after finding fault with those who, with yourselves, oppose the inefficiency of the police, comes down after all and forsakes those he desires to place in a better position, and writes:—

"Yet we are bound to confess that whatever effect they may have as preventors of crime they have had very insignificant success as detectives. It has become notorious that our detective system is incapable of doing any service. When a robbery is once committed we hear no more of the property nor of the perpetrators." But here is a mistake. We do hear, in the case of the burglary at Mr. Copland's, that the Inspector and Mr. Welsh took a canoe, and took saw no speak on the ocean; but we have not heard of any reward or notification being published in *Figuard* or *Store* street in the Chinese language. The subject, as Mr. Pemberton would say, has been sufficiently ventilated; it now remains to be seen what action will be taken by the Governor. WATCHMAN.

Victoria, Feb. 27, 1866.
* Night-cart, to wit.
[Our correspondent's letter was written before the recent capture of the Chinese burglars.—Ed.]
FROM NANAIMO.
The steamer Sir James Douglas arrived last evening with a few passengers and freight from Comox and way settlements. [From Monday's Gazette.]
FOUND.—The buoy, about which there was so much poetry talked and ink wasted, has turned up at last. Mr. John Sabiston discovered the truant at the back of Protection Island, and had him at once conveyed to his former moorings. On Drt that a number of the inhabitants are about to secure the services of two individuals to act as watchmen and policemen until such time as a municipal officer is granted. New STORE.—Our enterprising townsman, Mr. George Baker, we notice is putting up a very handsome store on Bridge street, rendered necessary by his rapidly increasing business. THE REV. J. B. GOOD, on Saturday evening last, read selections from Tennyson's *Enoch Arden*. The Philharmonic Society's band was in attendance. Dr. Grant introduced the subject with a good prologue, and Mr. Good's reading is said to have been superb. Mrs. Good sang "The Angel's Whisper," and was loudly applauded, and Messrs. J. Johns, Bradley, G. Johns and Sabiston also favored the company with some songs. A handsome sum was netted for the Institute. Eli Sykes, who was sentenced to death at the Leeds Assizes for the murder of a young woman and her mother, at Batley, died in the prison on the 6th from the effects of the injuries he sustained on the occasion of his throwing himself from one of the galleries of the gaol.