

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1865.

NO. 39.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

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Three Months, do.....3 50

Single Copies.....10 cents

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A COMPARISON.

There is always something instructive in the records of progress; but above all statistical information that which indicates the advancement of a young country is probably the most interesting. In our last two issues we presented our readers with a brief resume of the progress and condition of California; in the present article we are enabled, through statistics furnished to the Dublin Exhibition, to give a somewhat similar epitome of the Australian colony of Victoria. As an instance of the rapid and, at the same time, substantial progress of a young country history furnishes us with no parallel to these returns. Even before the gold fields had spread their attractions before the people of Great Britain the colony of Victoria was remarkable for its advancement. In 1836 its population numbered but 262 persons—224 male and 38 females. In five years afterwards this small settlement had increased to 20,000; in seven years after this, or in 1847, the number had reached 40,000. From this time the population would seem to have doubled about every three years and a half, and to-day it is represented in the returns at 604,858. In the last ten or twelve years—or since the opening up of the gold fields, the increase has been half a million of people. By way of comparison with the other great gold country—California—we shall allude to the relative conditions of each. The population of California, according to the census of 1860 was 360,000. Since that time another hundred thousand has probably been added, making it however still nearly one hundred and fifty thousand short of the Australian colony. The relative proportion of the sexes is much more favorable in the colony of Victoria than in California. In the former we have 256,000 females to 347,000 males, while in the latter there are but 100,000 females to 260,000 males—or in other words while there are twenty-five women for every thirty-five men in the colony of Victoria, in California the females number scarcely fourteen. The great mineral product of both countries bears a different proportion. In the Australian colony the gold yield has been gradually on the decrease, having diminished from \$63,000,000 in 1853, to \$31,000,000 in 1864. The gold in California has also undergone a serious diminution, but the mineral product has of late years been supplemented by the large yield in silver. The whole mining production in California is \$42,000,000. The exports and imports of Victoria are pretty nearly balanced—the former being about \$70,000,000, and the latter \$72,000,000. In the matter of commerce California is considerably behind, her exports, which very much exceed her imports, being only about \$55,000,000. Next to the gold in Australia, is of course, the wool product. In this article, California, although as we have previously shown, a large producer, cannot be expected to compete with her Australian rival. The California wool production reaches from seven to ten millions of pounds, while the yield of Victoria is thirty-nine millions. This leads us to the question of sheep, and here we find California exceeded by almost six to one. In Victoria the number reaches the enormous figure of forty millions, while in California the amount is put down at seven millions. In cattle the returns show 675,000 in the former country and 230,000 in the latter. In horses California is, however, ahead, having 160,000, while Victoria has but 103,000. It is, however, in agricultural produce that California excels the Australian colony. In the article of wheat, the California yield reaches six millions of bushels while the total product of Victoria is but three millions. In oats, however, Victoria

is more than this proportion ahead, having nearly three million of bushels to California's one million. In potatoes and hay the tables are again turned—California producing of the former article 800,000 bushels, and Victoria 74,000; of hay the latter country yields 121,000 tons, and California 306,000.

If we except the production of silver and agricultural articles, Australia is considerably ahead of California; much of this is, however, no doubt due to the larger population. When we come to look upon the enterprise of these two progressive countries, we must give the palm to Australia. However much the public and private works in California may reflect credit on the enterprise of

Swanson waited several hours. A number of these extras were very considerably sent down to Victoria, and the people who pushed on board the boat as she came alongside the wharf crowded eagerly round the Purser's office, and displayed the greatest anxiety to secure a copy.

The following is the list, the total number on board, according to which, appears to have been 155, classified as follows: male passengers, 58, female do. 33, children, 15, officers and crew, 49. Deducting the 17 saved, it would reduce the number of lives supposed to be lost, to 138.

San Francisco, August 2.—The following is the list of passengers:—Brig-Gen Wright, U.S.A., and wife; Lieut. E. D. Waits, U.S.A.; Miss Mary Berry; S. McDavid; M. C. Har- die; A. L. Stiles and wife; Wm Logan and servant; James Nesbit; Jas E. Trites; M. Crawford; T. Dawson; Miss Mary Price; Mrs Stackpole, infant and child; G. Weil; Mrs Anna Craig; Mrs Lee and infant; Gov. A. G. Henry; L. G. Tuttle; B. H. Stone, wife and infant; Capt Chadwick, U.S.A.; Mrs J. C. Keenan, and seven ladies; J. S. Geddes; E. Matherson; Mrs Lukey and 2 children; Major E. W. Eddy, U.S.A.; G. Carroll; M. Berthier; Jos Orzelli; H. DeRenier; Geo Tweedie; Patrick D. Myer; John Adams; Thos Gallon; Mrs J. Sanford; S. B. Morgan; S. N. Locke, wife and child; Miss Forbes; Chas N. Beldon; Albert Mickleth; George Wedekind; James Boynton; Thomas Meale and wife; Robert M. Fraser; John R. Craig; William Bultesty; J. S. Berty; Mrs Will- look; Conrad Adams; Fred A. Poud; G. Gil- land; Chas. M. James; James Lynch; A. Ingraham, M.D.; U.S.A.; James R. Richards; Victor Smith; Miss E. P. Snow; James Cornell; J. G. Gray and wife; Miss N. Shipper; M. L. Helton; George M. Pollock; Chas C. North- rup; J. O. Hunsacker; Mrs A. C. Brooks; Miss Hemst; Wm Logan and wife; D. Crandall; Mrs C. Fountain, daughter and child; D. C. Powell, wife and four children; A. Stone, wife and infant; Mrs Jas Church; Mrs Wendell and child; P. Laffer; C. Bis- net; and Wells, Fargo & Co's express messenger.

LIST OF CREW AND SHIP'S OFFICERS.
S. J. DeWolf, commander; W. A. H. Allen, 1st officer; J. D. Campbell, 2nd officer; Ja- pherson, 3rd officer; J. S. Benton, purser; Albert Dyer, freight clerk; E. Mott, chief en- gineer; G. W. Hite, 1st assistant engineer; Wm Anderson, oiler; P. K. Lynn, A. C. Cairns; Fred Walters, Arthur Harvey, W. Lowery, J. Thompson, firemen; John Gomar, John Hilton, John Clinton, coal passers; Joseph Perkins, Jacob Yates, J. L. Gomez, H. Walker, G. Frederick, A. Gouzelow, Wm Domingo, Silvan, Wm Foster, S. Douglas, Jas Fowler, seaman; D. Deans, 2nd pantryman; Thomas Tierney, porter; H. Miller, baker; Chas Rice; Geo. Manud; Hierrie, waiter; O. F. Laurend, watchman; Richard Dalton, steward; H. G. Brown, 2nd steward; J. Miller, pantryman; Charles Laws, cook; H. Lee, 2nd cook; Stevenson, stewardess; J. T. Hurton, Edwin Franklin, J. E. Porter, Matto Salazar, David Farrell, Stephen Morgan, J. W. Welsh, cabin boys; Edward Shiel, waiter.

Major Eddy, Paymaster U.S.A., had \$200,000 government funds, which were to be used in paying off troops. The Major, before sail- ing, balanced his government accounts, settled his private accounts, made his will, and told some of his friends that he felt a presentiment that he should never return.

THE INDIAN WAR ON THE PLAINS.

[From the Columbian.]

SALT LAKE, Aug. 3.—I have just returned from Platte Bridge, and about half the wire has been taken off and destroyed. The Platte Bridge operator says 28 poles are out down. The line can soon be put in tolerable working order if there is wire enough there to repair it.

The fighting commenced on the 25th ult. The Indians, numbering about 50, attempted to take the stock from the post, but were re- pulsed. The troops charged three times, and killed many, including one of their head chiefs. On the 26th the Indians made their appearance in large numbers, from 1000 to 3000. A train of 40 wagons, with an escort of 26 men, consisting of the 11th Kansas, on their way from Sweetwater to the Platte Bridge, were attacked to-day by the Indians four miles from the Platte, in plain view of the post. 500 troops from the post were ordered to charge the Indians and relieve the train. At the second charge the Lieutenant's horse became unmanageable and took him into their midst, where he was killed and horribly mutilated.

(Signed) MOWBRAY, Operator at Sweetwater Bridge.

MAIL STEAMER.—It is announced that the Sierra Nevada is to leave San Francisco on the 8th inst. for Portland and this port.

Loss of the Brother Jonathan.

LIST OF PASSENGERS

\$200,000 United States Money Lost.

The steamer Otter, Captain Swanson, arrived on Saturday night at 12 o'clock, from New Westminster, bringing the anxiously looked for list of passengers on board the unfortunate steamship Bro. Jonathan, at the time the fearful disaster occurred off Crescent City.

The telegraph wires it appears were again in working order, and a despatch was re- ceived from the ship.

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THE SHENANDOAH.

Whole Fleets Burnt by her.

[Telegram to the Columbian.]

SAN FRANCISCO, August 3.—The whaling bark Gen. Pike, of New Bedford, Capt. Crowell, arrived from Behring Straits with over 200 men from whalers burnt by the Shenandoah, on the morning after the de- parture of the Milo. Waddell captured and destroyed the brig Susan Abigail, belonging to Shedd & Wright of San Francisco, from which she obtained papers to the 30th of May, but declared the news all Northern lies. Four vessels were warned of their danger and hauled away in the night in boats and escaped.

The Shenandoah not being able to get to the mouth of the Columbia, she was forced to anchor within one and a half miles of the shore, and against St. Lawrence Island next morning, captured in the Straits the William C. Nye, belonging to Horn & Co. of San Francisco. She also captured the barks Nimrod, Catharine, Isabelle and Gipsy, of New London, burned them and transferred their provisions and crews to the General Pike, bonded her for \$45,000 and told the captain to steer for San Francisco. He robbed the officers and men of everything of value he could find, and told the captain if he got short of provisions to cook the Kanakas (of which there were fifty on board) and eat them. Two other vessels was to the north and east, and would probably be destroyed. The 250 men on board the Pike suffered greatly for sleep- ing accommodation until meeting a whaler bound north which they warned and sent back to Honolulu and thus got rid of the Kanakas. All the officers and crew are destitute of everything and must be relieved by our citizens. The Pacific Mail Company will carry them home at half price; a num- ber will go home by next steamer. They think that Waddell after destroying the Arctic fleet will return to the sea of Okotsch and destroy the vessels there.

Captain Crowell reports a severe earth- quake in latitude 40 deg. 50 min. north lati- tude, 162 deg 30 min. west, on the 4th of July, lasting five minutes, and another next day less severe.

The whaling ship Milo arrived to-night, two days later from the pirate Shenandoah. The Milo brings portions of the crews of the fol- lowing vessels which have been burnt by the Shenandoah: Ships Nassau, Isaac How- land, Hillman, Barke Otago, Flawanda, Waverly, Martha, and the Covington. The Milo was bonded and sent to this port. Ship James Maury was bonded and sent to Hon- olulu, June 29th. The Milo saw other ships burning in the Arctic.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

Butter—Sales 200 firkins Eastern at 32 1/2 @ 33.

Flour—Aggregate sales of 2 500 quarter sacks at \$5 50 @ \$5 75 per barrel for Super- fine, and \$6 50 @ \$6 75 for Extra; market steady.

Wheat is well supplied to market at \$1 75 @ 1 85 per 100 lbs.

Barley—sales of 1,724 sacks at private terms from 66c @ \$1, with quiet market.

Oats—sales 700 sacks at \$1 32 @ \$1 60 per 100 lbs.

Greenbacks 73 1/2 @ 74 1/2.

Arrived—Bark Edward, 107 days from In- dexmajo, Java, with a cargo of rice; ship Chieftain, from Boston.

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS.

[From the Columbian.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 3.—The steamer Colo- rado took 400 passengers and \$1,581,040. The U. S. steamer Saginaw will convey the Colorado sufficiently to insure her safety from the Shenandoah, and then start on her own hook in search of the pirate, and con- tinue cruising about as long as her coal lasts. The Colorado has the reputation of being the fastest steamer afloat, and if she has half a chance there is no fear of the Shenandoah getting sufficiently near her to do any dam- age.

Speaker Colfax delivered an address be- fore the Odd Fellows last night. Mr. C. will visit Yosemite Falls before leaving Califor- nia. He will not sail until September.

Mr. Nisbet—Among the unfortunate pas- sengers by the Brother Jonathan, we find the name of James Nisbet, Esq., the well known editor of the 'San Francisco Bulletin.' Mr. Nisbet informed us last year that he had been impressed with a great desire for sev- eral years to visit Victoria, where he possessed some landed property, and that he con- templated taking a run up this summer; he was doubtless on the eve of fulfilling that in- tention, when the sad calamity overtook him and his fellow voyagers.

PEARL FISHERY IN THE PACIFIC.—A com- pany called the Pacific Pearl Company has been formed at New York, the capital of which is \$1,000,000. The company purposes fishing for pearls and pearl shells on the Pa- cific coast. Their operations will be carried on by means of a submarine explorer. Pearl-oysters abound in the Gulf of Califor- nia, and it has been fished by the natives for 300 years.

I am, yours respectfully,

ROBERT C. COLEMAN.

GOVERNOR SEYMOUR'S RESIDENCE.—During the absence of Governor Seymour in the in- terior of the colony, the gubernatorial resi- dence at Sapperton is undergoing complete renovation. The house is being plastered, painted, and re-papered throughout, and when the surrounding grounds are laid out it will be the most picturesque and complete gentleman's residence in these colonies.

NEWS FROM THE BIG BEND COUNTRY.

[From the British Columbian.]

Mr. McLardy, of Yale, has furnished us with a letter which he received from Mr. William Robertson, who writes from the Columbia River, near the Big Bend, under date July 26th. The letter reached Yale on the 8th day after it was written—the quick- est time yet made from that section of coun- try. After giving an account of accidents and difficulties by land and by water, Mr. Robertson says:—“I wrote you in my last about a creek giving a good prospect. It is called Curran's Creek. We reached it about two weeks ago; but owing to the unusual height of the water at this season it is im- possible to get to the bed rock in the creek. Still they are sticking to it, the prospect being good enough.”

French Creek, which from what I have been told, I think more of than I do of Curran Creek, I am on my way up there now. You may remember Turner prospected a creek last fall, a little above where he struck the Columbia River, of which he spoke very favorably. It is called Gold Creek, but might perhaps more properly be called a small river. French Creek empties into Gold Creek nearly 20 miles from its mouth, and runs north and south. When we were at Curran's Creek, three men came down in a canoe for tools and provisions, and the account they gave of French Creek in- duced us to go up, and we are now on our way. One of the men is named Munro, an intelligent, quiet, steady man from Canada. His prospect had been sufficiently good to induce his party to turn the creek, and when he gets up with tools they will go to work with sluices. Another of the men, named Anderson, showed me his prospect out of six pans of dirt, fully a dollar, but not from the bed-rock. There are two feet of pay dirt near the surface in the gravel. His party cannot get to the bed-rock till the water falls—still this stratum of dirt will pay them well to work. It is pretty coarse gold he showed me. The Discovery Co. passed our camp three days ago, going down on a raft to Curran's Creek for provisions. They describe the creek as still too high to work; however, both river and creeks are going down fast during the last two days, and we are just about to proceed onward. To night, with good luck, we will reach Les Rapides des Morts (Death Rapids). We have been wait- ing a week for the water to fall, before we dared venture it.”

LETTER FROM COMOX.

Comox, August 2d, 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST, Sir.—On Wednesday 26th ult. Mr. J. T. Pid- well, Superintendent of Roads, arrived here in order to survey a road through the district in answer to the petition of the settlers sometime ago addressed to His Excellency. To obtain a correct idea of the opinions of the settlers as to the direction in which the main road should run, also the various points at which it would be advisable to make cross roads, Mr. Pidwell gave notice of a meeting to be held in the Mission House, to which almost every settler responded. Hav- ing briefly explained the object of his visit, he called on the settlers to speak freely their views, that he might endeavor to lay out the road so as to meet their requirements, and hoped that when this was done, they would forget their differences and live harmoni- ously together.

The meeting explained to him the situa- tion of the different swamps and the neces- sity of having a branch road to Green's Landing, and suggested that the main road should run along the bottom of the second range of claims, leaving a range of claims between the road and the river.

It was then proposed that the meeting de- fray the expenses of three men to accompany Mr. Pidwell and assist him to lay out the roads by blazing, etc., which was unani- mously agreed to.

On the two following days Mr. Pidwell laid out two roads for the Upper and Lower Prairies to meet near the Church, with a continuation to the steamer landing, and a branch past Green's Landing to the Smithy. He conferred a great benefit on the settle- ment by so laying out this branch road, that a valuable water frontage is reserved for the public, and the other roads are so arranged as to meet the requirements of the settle- ment, although it should attain ten times its present size.

CLERICAL.

The Rev. E. White, Missionary from Nanaimo, visited the settlement at the same time, and preached an impressive and appropriate discourse to a small but attentive au- dience.

THE CROPS.

Haymaking is now nearly finished; the crop, owing to the frequent showers through- out the summer, is abundant and of excellent quality. Peas and oats look well, and tur- nips although checked both by the fly and caterpillars now appear quite healthy. Im- mense numbers of caterpillars attacked the potatoes, devouring the leaves and eating through the stalks. Upwards of two hun- dred have been picked off a single plant.

On the evening of the 29th a keen frosty north wind, blasted a good many potatoes, but they have now begun to recover.

We shall begin to reap about the 14th instant.

I am, yours respectfully,

ROBERT C. COLEMAN.

GOVERNOR SEYMOUR'S RESIDENCE.—During the absence of Governor Seymour in the in- terior of the colony, the gubernatorial resi- dence at Sapperton is undergoing complete renovation. The house is being plastered, painted, and re-papered throughout, and when the surrounding grounds are laid out it will be the most picturesque and complete gentleman's residence in these colonies.

FOREIGN SOCIETY.

to the above Society

of Vancouver Island

in June, 1863.

OF THE GOVERNOR.

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