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The War in Europe.

The contradictory and unreliable character of the war dispatches would appear to be as free from mutation as the tide of Prussian success is from interruption. The announcement that the French had gained very important victories before Paris turns out equally unreliable with the story of Russia having massed nearly half a million of troops on the Prussian border, and having virtually declared war against that Power. Both stories served to revive the drooping hopes of the friends of France, only to be more cruelly than ever crushed. Both have been formalized and, apparently, authoritatively contradicted. Nay, a Versailles dispatch places victory on the side of Prussia.

that a good understanding exists among the three great Powers of Continental Europe; and there are not altogether wanting indications that the theory may be so extended as to embrace Great Britain also. The former attitude assumed by the British Cabinet is not without significance, and gives color to the suspicion that the Great Powers are decidedly inimical to the establishment of a R-publican Government in France. The statement that the British Cabinet had finally decided that it was not expedient to recognize the only Government which at present could claim to be established in France, would scarcely seem to be susceptible of any more merciful solution. Should this theory prove correct, peace can only be secured by the speedy establishment of a constitutional Government which would extort general recognition, or on such terms as King William may dictate from Paris! The terms may appear harsh—cruel; and yet, what is to be done? Can Prussia really be expected to recross the Vosges, leaving the soil of France saturated with German blood, without taking back some substantial guarantee for lasting peace? Is it in the interest of Europe, or even of France herself, that peace should be patched up on a false and unending basis? It must be remembered that, in this war, the horrors and the sacrifices have not, like glory and victory, been for the most part confined to one side. Indeed, it is generally claimed that the Prussians have lost more men than the French; and it must be borne in mind that, although France has been the battle-field, Prussia has scarcely suffered less in the withdrawal of her sturdy yeomanry, and the consequent neglect of all her industries. The exact point at which public opinion diverges it would, of course, be difficult to define; but it must be admitted that whenever Prussia came to occupy the position of aggression, a goodly share of sympathy shifted to the side of France. There are few who would really wish to see a great, chivalrous and proud nation like France utterly humiliated and dismembered. Meanwhile, however, the cordon of Prussian troops is steadily drawing in closer to the walls of Paris, and every precaution is being taken and every expedient employed with a view to rendering the operations of the besieging army safe and decisive. Paris may be able to subsist upon salt meat for one month or for six; it may be enabled to hold out against the incessant attacks of the enemy for the shorter or the longer period; but it would appear to be perfectly certain that, unless France can bring a very strong force to bear upon the rear of the besieging army, the capitalization of Paris must be regarded

as only a question of time, a question in which the unanimity and endurance of the people within the walls must form an important element. There is an impression, in what may be regarded as well-informed circles, that Prussian resistance will not be protracted—that the gates will be thrown open long before the supply of provisions shall have been exhausted.

THE ALEXANDRA BRIDGE.—In accordance with the provisions of the charter, this bridge, which spans the Fraser fourteen miles above Yale, reverted to the Government on the 21st of last month, and is now the property of the colony. It was built by the Hon Mr Trutch in 1862-3, at an expense of some \$40,000; and during the seven years it was in his hands tolls were collected at the following rates: On freight, one-third of one halfpenny sterling; on horses, mules and cattle, two shillings and one penny per head. On sheep, pigs, colts, goats and calves, sixpence half penny. On one-horse vehicles two shillings and one penny. On vehicles drawn by two horses or animals, four shillings and two pence. On vehicles drawn by four horses or animals, eight shillings and four pence. Owing to various causes the bridge has doubtless proved less profitable to Mr Trutch than was at one time anticipated, yet we have no doubt a handsome profit has been realized from it. As we have said, the bridge became the property of the colony on the 21st inst, and from that date the collection of tolls ceased, and it is now a free bridge. Whether it will continue to be free remains to be seen. Our own impression is that, if any toll is to be charged it should be barely enough to maintain the bridge. The trade of the interior has been overwhelmed with road and bridge tolls, and a little relief would be highly desirable. At any rate no tolls can be collected before legislation takes place.

THE CANADIAN CURRENCY.—There does not appear to us to be any real ground of alarm in regard to the Canadian currency question. The readers of this journal will know that a plethora of American silver gave rise to a condition of things in Canada commonly called 'the silver nuisance,' to the abatement of which Sir Francis Hincks, the present Minister of Finance, actively addressed himself. The value of the foreign coin was depreciated and several millions of dollars worth of the foreign coin was sent across the line, a Government paper currency being issued, meanwhile, to supply the circulating medium until such time as the Dominion coinage could be struck. That coinage has been struck, a description of which was given in these columns a few days ago, and is rapidly replacing the paper currency temporarily issued by the Government. There can be no doubt that when this colony becomes part of the Dominion, fitting provision will be made by the introduction of a proper supply of Dominion coin; but in any case the difficulty must be confined to 'legal tenders.' In general commercial transactions no currency difficulty greater than has existed for years is likely to occur. We have had notes passing in one section of the colony at 50 cents, and in another part at 37 1/2 cents, while the American half-dollar passes every where at 50 cents, and the British shilling at 25 cents. As for Canadian prices, they may well be left to regulate themselves.

PORT SOUND IRON.—The Seattle *Intelligencer* says the survey of the Snoqualmie Pass by Maxwell's party has reached a point on Snoqualmie river 44 miles from that city, 1000 feet above tide water with an average grade of 35 feet to the mile. The route is supposed to be entirely feasible. Mr Andrew Urquhart of Lewis county, was chased into his house by three cougars, a few days ago. Arming himself with gun, hatchet and knife, he killed all three. As they were very lean and lank he opened them, and to his horror found in the stomach of one of the beasts a piece of a human skull with the hair yet on it. No doubt secured from some Indian grave, as no one is known to be missing. He likewise found in one of them a strip of cloth two inches wide and 10 inches long. We are indebted to Mr Horace Howe for this information, who obtained it direct from Mr Urquhart himself. These make sixteen of these animals killed by Urquhart in that vicinity.

FIRE.—Yesterday morning, between 6 and 7 o'clock, a large stack of hay standing in a 5-acre lot, part of the old Beckly Farm, was discovered to be on fire. The flames, quickly communicated with another stack, distant about eight feet, and both were consumed. A heavy smoke arose from the burning mass and the bells rang, but the firemen learning that no danger existed of the spread of flames, did not reach the spot with their apparatus. Aid was promptly rendered by the neighbors, who, however, could effect but little good. The hay was owned by Mrs Snow and was valued at \$250. A year ago McWells bought the hay on this lot and cut and stacked it, when an incendiary destroyed it. The last fire is believed to be the work of an incendiary, but it is just possible that it was the result of spontaneous combustion.

CORRECTION.—We wish that in copying news from our columns the *Standard* would endeavor to do so correctly. On Saturday we announced the arrival of the day before of the ship *Montgomery Castle* from Liverpool. Yesterday the *Standard* in transferring the information to its own columns (without credit, mind you!) says the ship is from London and that she arrived on Sunday instead of Friday. Our neighbor should be more careful.

THE FIREMEN'S ELECTION. yesterday, passed off very quietly, no opposition being offered to the return of Mr Duck as Chief and Frank Richards as Assistant Engineer. Only about one-half the number of registered voters were cast. The ballot stood—Duck, 60; Richards, 60; scattering, 8. After the votes had been counted the bells were rung and speeches made by the officers elect. Mr Dickson, President of our Fire Department, Mr Fisher, Captain of the Hyack Company of New Westminster, and others. A sumptuous luncheon was prepared by the two candidates, and many a bumper was drunk to their health during the day.

FROM PORT SOUND.—The steamer *Essex*, Capt Starr, arrived from Puget Sound at 6 o'clock last evening with 21 passengers. Capt Starr and Purser Taylor have our thanks for late papers, etc. The steamer *Eliza Anderson*, Capt Finch, arrived from Olympia and way ports last evening at 8:50 with 30 passengers, two horses, 1 cow, 1 mutton and 100 lbs flour. The Anderson called at Port Angeles and landed 21 head of cattle and 1 horse. We are indebted to Purser Finch for the usual favors.

THE SHIP MONTGOMERY CASTLE.—The hatches of this fine ship were raised yesterday and the cargo proposed in splendid condition. The work of discharging will be commenced this morning, and that portion of the cargo intended for Victoria will be brought around from Esquimalt by the steamer *Grappier*. The notice of the consignees appears in this issue.

FORTUNES AT OUR DOORS.—The return from the crushing and assaying of 100 lbs of quartz rock by the stamps at the Bank of British North America is nearly \$5 in gold, or at the rate of \$100 to the ton of 2000 lbs. The rock came from the lead on Cedar Hill lately discovered by Oargottion and Piper; and there is plenty more of the same sort easily obtainable.

BAIR MENTION.—R McKenzie, Esq. J. P. will hold a Court at the Lake District School-house to decide upon delinquents in school tax. The bark *Adelle*, loading lumber at Sooke, will be ready for sea in a few days.

'SWEETS FOR THE SWEET.'—R F Pickett & Co, by the Lovett Peacock, received a large invoice of sweet potatoes, and by the California, luscious apples and pears for eating and cooking.

POLICE COURT.—The transactions yesterday were a summons case for wages, an Indian charged five shillings and the dismissal of a discharged with absconding from the master.

The election of Mr Tynon for Lillooet-Clinton District is everywhere conceded. Poor Mr Humphreys! A prophet hath honor save in his own country.

A **YACHT** was reported in the Roads last evening, supposed to be the ship *Pocahontas*, from San Francisco, bound for the Hastings mills, Burrard Inlet.

A **COURT OF ASSIST** and General Goal Delivery will be held on the 10th inst, next Monday.

ALL CLAIMS against the Agricultural and Horticultural Society must be handed to Mr Bales to-day.

KOOTENAY.—Hon Henry Holbrook will be a candidate for the Council for Kootenay District.

The steamer *Sir James Douglas* will sail for Nanaimo this morning at 7 o'clock.

The steamer *Enterprise* will sail this morning at 10 o'clock for New Westminster.

A **COURT COURT** will be held this morning by Justice Pemberton at 10 o'clock.

Letter from the Oregon Capital
[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

SALEM, OREGON, Sept 18th, 1870.
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—In the last note forwarded to you it was stated that Portland was very dull at present owing to the absence of the Legislature at this place. This usually quaker-like city is so crowded that rooms cannot be found for love or money.

We have here at present all the capitalists, politicians, and lobbyists, in the State. Ben Holladay has rented a magnificent residence in order to be near to our incorruptible legislators, to lobby some new enterprise, or to try and elect Senator Williams to a second term in the Senate of the United States. On Monday last the Legislature held its first session since 1858. On Sunday an excursion train was run on the Oregon and Central Railroad to the end of track, which does not come within seven miles of the city. The scene at the terminus on that day was a confused one. Vehicles of all descriptions and sizes were present to convey the passengers, but ten times the number could not transport the large freight of humanity awaiting transportation. Past families might be seen tramping around, like a courier on a battle field, freighted with heavy portmanteaus, and family imploring a passage. In fifteen minutes the coaches were crowded, and many had to tramp the rest of the way into town. We were fortunate enough to get a very fat horse from a very small boy, and we felt contented. The scene along the road looked like the debris of a retreating army. Several scores of horsemen occupied the fore ground, raising madly, the stages towered above all others, black with people who were packed as close as sardines in a box, while the rear was brought up by a large detachment of Holladay's army, as the celestials are called, moving as a dog trot and bearing their household utensils to a new camping ground. On arriving in town we made inquiries for lodgings, but none could be found. A splen-

d hotel just built and occupying a whole square was so crowded that persons were glad to be allowed to lie on the floor. We beseeched the landlord to procure us quarters somewhere or anywhere, but a decided negative response informed us we had better go seek elsewhere. We hunted up some friends, but all had the same story to tell, they were stopping with no-and-so or else they had no place to sleep themselves. We resumed our delving at the generosity of the landlord, but we were told promptly that there was only one bed in the house and that General A, Judge B, and Doctor C, were all demanding it. O bless us, if these titled dignitaries were asking for it, what could an untitled quidnunc expect? We may add here parenthetically that there is not a person in town, but is either a doctor, judge or general, and as for colonels you would not stoop to speak to them. Evidently

to obtain a superior position we assumed the look which Napoleon the First wears in his lithographs and told him we were Napoleon the Third. The expression he uttered was not creditable to our assumed dignity and position. Having nothing better to do than banter we told him we were private Schmidt of the 1000th Ulans, that we were banished here for killing too many Frenchmen, and by danger and blitzen if he did not give us a ped we would roll on him like a barrel of larger or smaller him out mid Limburger. A laugh was the only reply we could gain to our threat and sickly jokes. We at length prevailed upon him to show us the Judge, General and Doctor's bed, and also his house, which he willingly did, but on leaving the room he forgot to lock it. About dusk that evening an individual might be seen going for that room and in three minutes after was safely ensconced in the bed of the several dignitaries. Towards midnight the following incident occurred. Scene—Sleepers' chamber. Enter landlord by the flickering light of a small taper, door open, Judge—Hallo there, goll darn my buttock if there ain't some faller in mine and the General's bed. Landlord—So there is. 'Hi there, this is not your bed. Sleeper is wrapped too profanely in the arms of Morpheus to bear. Shaking follows, and the clothes are being rapidly recalled when a kick on the arm stops the intruder. Sleeper is shaken rudely, but it would be an easier matter to awaken the seven sleepers of Ephesus. Exit landlord, followed by the Judge and General, each taking turns in swearing at that 'cuss' that 'snubbed their bed.' The last we heard of them they were on a reconnaissance around town in search of some camping place for the night. The landlord surprised us afterwards while reading a Journal, but the moment our eyes met both exploded with laughter, and we were left in quiet possession for our bit of strategy. This incident we merely relate to show how crowded the city is at present.

Monday afternoon we dropped in to see the Legislature. The State House assumes no distinguishing character from the surrounding edifices. It is a plain brick structure on the main street, and distinguished only by having the Stars and Stripes floating from its cupola. The Legislative rooms are up stairs, and as we reach the head we turn to the left to the Senate chamber. It is a small room containing seats for about twenty-five senators, and a not very extensive audience outside the bar. It is democratically simple, with plain desks and chairs, the only thing apparently bought beyond the rules of economy being the carpet. The House of Representatives is a fine simile of the Senate chamber, except being larger and containing a gallery for spectators. Oregon is entitled to twenty-two senators, and forty-seven representatives, a total of sixty-nine, which makes necessary for a choice thirty-five. The Senate not being in session, the members were enjoying their *dolce far niente* ere their arduous labors commenced. They might be seen with feet on desks, and chairs tipped back smoking, or reading the daily journals. Those gentlemen surrounding the President's desk armed with pencils sharpened at both ends are the Knights of the Quill, who transfer the wisdom of our law makers to imperishable tablets that it may be transmitted down for the edification of future generations of Websters. The Senators look like practical men, those who came from the people and know their wants. No pedantic official snobs are here, but men who labor on the farm or in the country house, the bone and sinew of the land. They may not be dressed a *cut ton*, nor perhaps is their oratory striking but it is deeply practical. Their eloquence might be criticised as to the manner of delivery and grammatical and logical construction, but the sentiment expressed or implied is both logic and material. Instead of weaving orations of gaudy words, indulging in fanciful imagery or brilliant rhetoric, thus wasting their own time and the people's money to no purpose, they undertake their business and accomplish it quickly and economically. It was Euripides, if we mistake not, who addressed the pretentious and would be aristocratic legislators of ancient Greece the following well known quotation. Ochestra used never appear distressing to thee. The members of the Senate seem to have learnt this quotation intensively if not from the great Grecian dramatist. So we find them framing estate laws, school laws, laws for building, railroads and highways and increasing commerce, instead of displaying buncombe and second handed oratory. The majority of the present legislature is democratic, and the *Man of the Queue* will receive a good deal of their attention. They do not want him here, but if he persists in tarrying among the Webfoot barbarians he will have to pay dearly for the privilege. Bills to tax him heavily are now pending.

DEBS-MAKING AND MANTLE-MAKING.—These departments will be opened at London House on Sept 19th, under the charge of a thoroughly experienced cutter, who arrived from England by the California, and who is prepared to produce the latest styles.

PHOTOGRAPHERS.—Persons desirous of purchasing a selection of British Columbian views are requested to call and do so at once, as this is positively the last week they will be sold at half price at Dally's Photographic Gallery, Fort street, Victoria.

FULL'S COFFEE. superior to any other brand manufactured on the Coast, may be obtained of all respectable dealers throughout the Colony.

LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES.

Europe.
New York, Oct 1.—Cable dispatches report that Bismarck surprised the Prussians and gained a great success.

Versailles, Oct 1.—The French in force made a sortie from the city at six a.m. in the direction of Fort Dussay, and attacked the sixth army corps occupying the right of the Crown Prince's army. At the same time another large force under the command of Gen Doucet advanced from the direction of St Cloud and attacked 5th and 11th corps. They drove the Prussians from their position before reinforcements came up. After nearly two hours hard fighting during which the Prussian line was shattered, the French gave way before the heavy fire of the Prussian batteries.

Toul, Oct 2.—Morning—An engagement is now going on near St Germain. It was reported at Metz yesterday that 4000 Prussians had occupied Nancy. The commandant at Fort d'Avoye declares that he will not surrender on any terms. In the fight of the 23d 8000 Prussians were engaged. A dispatch from Toul says that for three days cannonading had been heard in the direction of Pont-a-Mousson. It is reported that General Bazaine had made a successful sortie from Metz, the loss of the Prussians during the conflict being very heavy. Gen Uthry arrived here last night.

London, Oct 2.—The siege of Soissons continues. A sortie of the garrison had been repulsed by the Reimsburg, Wildenberg and Frankfurt landwehr and the 13th corps. The French have asked for a truce that they may bury their dead. Bismarck formally declines that any disposition exists on the part of Prussia to make France a second rate Power.

Paris, Oct 1.—Cholera is raging among the German troops at Châlons and is malignant among the troops at Rheims where the affected districts are surrounded by sanitary cordons. The inferring garrison comprises only a few thousand. The garrison at Metz made a heavy sortie yesterday evening and another this morning. Both were repulsed. London, Oct 2.—The Germans before Paris will probably receive their siege train to-day.

We have news that the national guard of the army of Rouen had their first brush with the enemy yesterday near Bayeux, four miles from Paris, in the forest of Ronsey. National guard behaved well and for two hours had the advantage, driving the Germans back through Nanitz. Many were killed in a desperate conflict on a bridge over the Seine near Meaux. Reinforcements of artillery and cavalry came up for the Germans and they in turn taking the offensive, drove the French back in considerable disorder and with heavy loss. At latest accounts the Germans occupied Nanitz. Communication is, however, reopened by Meaux with Rouen.

Berlin, Oct 2.—Eighty thousand Landwehr reserves from the North Baltic provinces are being pushed through here for the front for operations against Belfort and Lyons. St Petersburg, Oct 2.—To quiet rumors, it is announced semi-officially that Russia will persist in its policy of neutrality, and that the Turkish war would have no connection with the present conflict. There is a constant movement of troops, and cannon are daily passing through this city.

The newspapers are unanimous in urging the settlement of the Eastern question and the abrogation of the Paris treaty. The diplomatist says Gortchakoff is resolved to speedily assent to it. London, Oct 2.—The Duke of Nassau was killed on the 24th while riding with the King of Prussia and staff from Rheims to Châlons for the purpose of conferring with Prince Frederick Charles. In the thickest part of the wood there suddenly came our double volley of musketry from a ambush of sharpshooters. The third carriage, containing the Duke and staff, was riddled with bullets. One side-deck was instantly killed, another mortally wounded and the duke also. The fifth carriage, containing the King, was struck by several bullets but no one was hurt. The woods were scoured by cavalry without result. The Duke died on Sunday.

Toul, Oct 2.—The Government issued a proclamation to-day fixing the election of the Constitution Assembly for Oct 16th. Berlin, Oct 2.—A royal decree has been issued ordering those districts of France occupied by Germans, not included in the jurisdiction of Alsace and Lorraine, to submit to the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin as Governor.

London, Oct 2.—The King of Prussia has sent 50,000 thalers for the relief of the people of Strasbourg and Metz. Last night large masses of cavalry of the 7th corps were thrown northward from Conzelles to reinforce the force at St Barbe, and the artillery of the 1st corps advanced from Suarby to Naisville to meet the enemy. The cavalry will be partly employed to the village of Thionville in order to sweep the villages which are untouched and clear them of provisions in reprisal for recent captures of German supply trains.

China.
London, Oct 1.—Dispatches from Bombay dated Sept 26, just received, have the following: Tientsin advises, report that the Chinese have refused the ultimatum of the French and are preparing for war. The French are waiting orders from the Home Government before proceeding to extremities.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—A portable remedy in cases of INFLUENZA, COUGHS, BRONCHITIS, &c.

n & Farr.
SMITH'S
BRIDGE BUILDERS:
In the shop on door to Banister's Brewery, in the above line with nothing paid to HORSE-SHOERING. Country promptly attended to.
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Manufactured by the Giant
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Cartridges in packages
rtridges are 1/4, 1/2, 1, and 1 1/2,
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