

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, November 26, 1867

We publish to-day an extract from the London Morning Post, of the 16th September, upon affairs in British Columbia, being a communication from "a correspondent," and purporting to be dated from New Westminster on 31st July last. The information therein conveyed to the British public concerning this Colony will appear to those living in the Colony of such a novel character that we feel sure our readers will peruse the marvellous narrative with as much wonder as we have done, and will admire the cool effrontery of the writer. The assertion that the question of the Capital has already been settled by the Imperial Government in favor of New Westminster; that New Westminster is admirably situated for commerce as well as for defence; that its site is preferable to Victoria; and that with its own immediate port and the immediately adjacent land-locked, double basin of Burrard Inlet, it is far superior as a harbor to Esquimaux, so vividly depict the mental idiosyncrasies of the writer that those dwelling here and acquainted with the true condition of things will at once perceive the animus and object of the Morning Post's correspondent. But those at home not having the advantage of local knowledge cannot be expected to distinguish truth from falsehood in these matters. The general reader, possibly ignorant whether British Columbia is in Australia or America, would naturally accept as reliable the information published in a journal of such standing and influence as the Morning Post. It is not, however, so much on account of exposing the specious misrepresentations of the Post's correspondent that we notice his communication at all; but the fact that it bears in itself intrinsic evidence of its official origin may serve to open the eyes of the public as to the possible character of official communications that are sent to Her Majesty's Government on this subject. We have searched and enquired, but in vain, for any document made public in this Colony from which the peculiar array of figures and statistics which the writer quotes could have been obtained. They may exist, but if they do they are jealously guarded from the general public in the same manner as the last Blue Book on the Union of the Colonies, which almost immediately after receipt was sent officially to the Library at New Westminster, but which still—whether from fear or from a better feeling of shame, we know not—is carefully kept from the people of Victoria. To return to the statistics. If, as we really believe, these figures have never been made public, it is plain either that this letter must have been written by some official in high position or that the materials must have been designedly prepared and supplied from Government sources for the purposes to which they have been applied. With those circumstances clearly in view, it is most remarkable that this letter should have been published—more especially in the Morning Post—within a day or two of Mr Birch's arrival in London; and further, that prior to his departure from here, that loyal was in continual confabulation with the Auditor General of the Colony. The conclusion is palpable. How weak must a cause be that requires such chicanery to support it. But the writer betrays his weakness. He says the proposed change of Capital, although of no benefit to Victoria, would be of great injury to New Westminster. Strange, that after so carefully enumerating the imaginary natural advantages of the latter and the supposed peculiar blemishes of the former, yet the withdrawal of a name and the non-residence of a few officials should be of such dire consequences to what is stated to be the naturally favored spot; while those advantages, added to the alleged natural and inevitable position of Victoria, would nevertheless fail to be of any benefit. Surely the conclusions of the New Westminster champion are illogical and absurd. Her Majesty's

Government have been too long hoodwinked on these matters: there has been too much masquerading with truth. Caprice and selfishness must ultimately yield to truth. A lie cannot live for long. Our position has been urged and maintained by true friends in England in a manner that leaves little to add on matters of fact. We rest secure in the strength of our position. But we must allude, in conclusion, to this writer's insinuations against the loyalty of the people of Victoria. This theme, no doubt, has been greedily seized, and amply despoiled, on as a good subject for abuse. But the reception of Governor Seymour, as her Majesty's representative, is the best practical refutation of the slander. The falsity of such accusations, and the meanness of using them in such a manner, we deplore to trace so directly to such a source.

Letter from Cariboo.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21. CENTREVILLE, NOV. 4, 1867. Editor BRITISH COLONIST.—Below is a list of the claims on Mosquito and Red gulches:— First, on the lower end of Mosquito creek is the Big Lead Co., which botomed their shaft a few days ago, and have already got prospects that will pay wages in the gravel, and the bed rock pitching very fast. Next the Minnehaha, which has averaged 75 oz per week since pay was struck. Next the Willow Co, paying an oz. to \$20 per day to the hand. The Hocking, which joins the Willow in the hill, has paid \$1,000 to the set of timbers while worked. They have abandoned their shaft and are at present running a tunnel. The next claim in the creek is the Point Co., which has paid \$10 to \$12 per day to the hand all summer. They too are running a tunnel into the hill and expect to get the Hocking lead. Next is the Discovery Co., paying wages. Next is the Holman, Jeffrey, Rising Sun and Union Jack Companies, all paying from \$10 to \$20 per diem to the hand. These, I believe, are all the claims at present working on Mosquito creek.

On Red Gulch.

On Red Gulch the first claim paying is the Discovery Co., paying about \$10 per day. Above the Discovery is the Blacksmith Co., Catch-lem-if-you-can Co., Butcher and United Co's all paying good wages. Then in the hill is the Montana Co., running a tunnel in big hopes of finding a hill channel. There are several other companies on the head of this gulch, sinking shafts and running tunnels, all in big hopes of striking pay soon. Also below the Discovery are several companies sinking shafts, but the ground in this portion is much deeper and more difficult to prospect, but the greatest drawback on both these creeks at present is the great scarcity of water, which has fallen off very rapidly since the cold weather set in. Should we not have some soft weather soon most of the companies on the upper part of these creeks will have to discontinue washing for the present, but all will be well employed in running tunnels during the winter, and be able to work their claims much more advantageously next season.

Whipsaw gulch.

Whipsaw gulch, which is situated about two miles below Mosquito, is just beginning to attract attention, and it is the general supposition, judging from the prospects obtained by the Discovery Co., that it will turn out richer than either Mosquito or Red gulches. There are four other gulches on the other side of this mountain, on some of which good prospects have been obtained. I will speak more fully of them at some time. A MINER.

Bankruptcy Court.

Before His Lordship Chief Justice Neidham. WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20. In re Willis Bond.—For first examination. E. Phelps and T. P. Freeman appointed creditor's assignees. Adjournd for assignees to accept and choose a solicitor. Re C. W. Wallace.—Application was again made by Mr. Wood, counsel for Dickson, Campbell & Co., that the money paid by them into Court be paid to the order of J. C. Nicholson. Mr. Copland opposed, on behalf of the official assignee.—Application dismissed, with costs, to the official assignee.

Collection of Customs.

We are placed under obligations to our friend, Mr J. A. McCrea, Esq. for a very interesting collection of Russian and other copper coins, made by him during his recent visit to Alaska.

British Columbia.

(From the Morning Post, Sept. 16th, 1867.)

THE CESSION OF RUSSIAN AMERICA TO THE UNITED STATES, and the eager desire of the latter to round off their possessions on the Pacific by the absorption of this country, will no doubt have attracted unusual attention in England to this distant part of the empire. Notwithstanding the efforts of a few Americans in Victoria, Vancouver Island, to agitate for annexation to the Republic, I am glad to say that the only change in the political condition which the loyal people of British Columbia are anxious to see carried out is their speedy incorporation with the Canadian Confederation, an event they look forward to with satisfaction, as tending to ensure their permanent connection with the mother country. The only political question which at present occasions any excitement among our people is in relation to the choice of a permanent capital for the united colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. This matter has already been settled by the Imperial Government, and New Westminster, on the mainland, has, since the proclamation of union, been recognised as the seat of government. The people of Victoria, however, are greatly dissatisfied with this choice, although any unprejudiced person must see that the Colonial Secretary was perfectly right in establishing the capital on the mainland. Had Victoria been fixed upon for the seat of government, it is quite obvious, in view of the contemplated early opening out of a route across the continent from Canada, and the increase of population in British Columbia, that it could not have retained such a position for many years. New Westminster, moreover, is admirably situated for commerce as well as for defence, and it is no doubt destined to be the terminus of the great interoceanic railway. The site is certainly preferable to Victoria and with its own immediate port and immediately adjacent land-locked double basin of Burrard's Inlet, far superior to Esquimaux. It can be easily defended and rendered impregnable, while in Esquimaux harbour there is not a corner which would not be at the mercy of a single long-range gun of the kind in common use in modern warfare. The people of Victoria, however, are determined to keep up a political agitation on this subject, the effect of which cannot but be most injurious to the colony. It is believed that a number of influential proprietors in Victoria are now making great exertions by memorials and otherwise, to effect a removal of the seat of government to the island. Governor Seymour deprecates the political agitation of this question, and, in a message to the Legislative Council in March last, stated plainly that should he find it necessary to set the present question at rest he will recommend to the Queen that he and his successors in office be commanded to reside permanently in the present capital of the colony. The proposed change, although of no benefit to Victoria, would be of very great injury to this place, a city, be it remarked, which has been from its foundation distinguished for the hardihood and loyalty of its inhabitants, and their steady attachment to the institutions of the mother country, and among whom the slightest whisper of annexation has never been heard.

The Capital Question—Public Meeting.

A requisition calling on his Worship the Mayor to convene a public meeting, at the theatre, to consider the propriety of tendering the thanks of the colonists to Donald Fraser and other Victorians, now in London, for the very warm interest they have taken to our affairs, especially with regard to the location of the seat of Government, was numerously signed yesterday.

The British Columbia has an article of two columns and a-half on the Capital question.

We have waded carefully through the dross and flod just one idea, and that is flodded from Captain Richards. The Examiner is not so verbose, and a trifle more sensible than its cotemporary; but the only point it makes it to sneer at the number of signers, which it sets at "nine," whereas the true number is 72 firms and individuals.

HURDLE RACES.

We understand that a number of Naval officers, in conjunction with citizens of Victoria and Esquimaux, contemplate giving a day's hurdle-racing at Beacon Hill. The time is not set, but it is hoped that it will not be later than three weeks from date. The programme is in course of arrangement and will be published shortly.

Deaths in election duty at the town of Headwaters.

A party of twenty or thirty men, named Coates, became embroiled with a Southern family, named Frost. Pistols were used, and when the firing had ceased it was discovered that five of the Coates family were killed, and three dangerously wounded. On the side of the Frosts, one man was killed and another mortally wounded. No arrests were made.

In the Circuit Court of New Brunswick.

A judgment for \$25,000 was rendered against Horam J. Hazleton, a lawyer of St. John's, who had acted as executor to the estate of a wealthy merchant named Valentin, and failed to account for proceeds arising from the estate to the amount of the judgment.

Gen. L. H. ROUSSEAU, U. S. A., and staff sailed on the Diana yesterday morning for Olympia.

The General will proceed overland to Portland to take command of the forces there.

The Osageps sailed at 12 yesterday for San Francisco.

It is believed that the letters placed aboard of her will overtake the opposition steamer, which leaves for Panama on the 25th inst.

LETTERS received from Mr John Banks state that he has entered into the possession of the estate to which he fell heir by the decease of a cousin.

The property is situated in Cumberland.

LECTURE.—Mrs G. M. Stowe's lecture on the Rheumatism and Philosophy of Spiritualism, will take place this evening, at the St. George.

The lecture will commence at a quarter to 8 o'clock.

THE FLAGS of Stumptown were set at half-mast on Tuesday—a sign, that the "Capital" is about to flit, no doubt.

The brig Robt. Cowan is being rapidly repaired, and will sail in a few days for Honolulu, S. I.

THE THEATRE.—Another performance is fixed for Saturday evening, when new plays will be produced.

H. M. S. SCOUR sailed for the Southern Station at 1 o'clock yesterday morning.

THERE were no cases before the Police Magistrate yesterday.

The Enterprise will sail at 9 o'clock tomorrow for New Westminster via Nanaimo.

THE Enterprise returned from Frasermouth last evening, bringing 20 passengers.

LEON HARRIS, Esq. has reached New Westminster, and has been invited to lecture there.

British Columbia.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW WESTMINSTER, July 31.

THE CESSION OF RUSSIAN AMERICA TO THE UNITED STATES, and the eager desire of the latter to round off their possessions on the Pacific by the absorption of this country, will no doubt have attracted unusual attention in England to this distant part of the empire. Notwithstanding the efforts of a few Americans in Victoria, Vancouver Island, to agitate for annexation to the Republic, I am glad to say that the only change in the political condition which the loyal people of British Columbia are anxious to see carried out is their speedy incorporation with the Canadian Confederation, an event they look forward to with satisfaction, as tending to ensure their permanent connection with the mother country. The only political question which at present occasions any excitement among our people is in relation to the choice of a permanent capital for the united colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. This matter has already been settled by the Imperial Government, and New Westminster, on the mainland, has, since the proclamation of union, been recognised as the seat of government. The people of Victoria, however, are greatly dissatisfied with this choice, although any unprejudiced person must see that the Colonial Secretary was perfectly right in establishing the capital on the mainland. Had Victoria been fixed upon for the seat of government, it is quite obvious, in view of the contemplated early opening out of a route across the continent from Canada, and the increase of population in British Columbia, that it could not have retained such a position for many years. New Westminster, moreover, is admirably situated for commerce as well as for defence, and it is no doubt destined to be the terminus of the great interoceanic railway. The site is certainly preferable to Victoria and with its own immediate port and immediately adjacent land-locked double basin of Burrard's Inlet, far superior to Esquimaux. It can be easily defended and rendered impregnable, while in Esquimaux harbour there is not a corner which would not be at the mercy of a single long-range gun of the kind in common use in modern warfare. The people of Victoria, however, are determined to keep up a political agitation on this subject, the effect of which cannot but be most injurious to the colony. It is believed that a number of influential proprietors in Victoria are now making great exertions by memorials and otherwise, to effect a removal of the seat of government to the island. Governor Seymour deprecates the political agitation of this question, and, in a message to the Legislative Council in March last, stated plainly that should he find it necessary to set the present question at rest he will recommend to the Queen that he and his successors in office be commanded to reside permanently in the present capital of the colony. The proposed change, although of no benefit to Victoria, would be of very great injury to this place, a city, be it remarked, which has been from its foundation distinguished for the hardihood and loyalty of its inhabitants, and their steady attachment to the institutions of the mother country, and among whom the slightest whisper of annexation has never been heard.

The Governor, I have just learned, is about to leave immediately for Cariboo.

For the purpose, if possible, by his personal exertions, of arranging amicably a serious quarrel which has occurred between two mining companies on a new creek (Grouse Creek) over a large find of gold there. The contention over this, without great circumspection, is certain to lead to violence.

I am now in a position to furnish reliable figures showing the estimated approximate revenue of the colony for the last six months of the present year, together with the estimated amount of the necessary expenditure up to the 31st Dec., 1867.

The financial prospects of the colony up to the end of the year may be summed up as follows:—By the estimate presented to the Legislative Council at its last session it was calculated that the revenue for the year immediately following the union would yield from all sources \$675,850. I regret, however, to say that there is likely to be a deficiency by the end of the year of at least \$250,000 out of that sum. In explanation of this untoward circumstance it is only necessary to remark that the deficiency, whatever it shall prove, will be mainly attributable to the extraordinary omission of the Home Government, while framing the Imperial Act of Union, to telegraph or otherwise give timely notice of the passing of this bill to the British Columbia Government; for three months after the 6th August, 1866, when the act was passed and the terms of union known, it only became law in the colony, and consequently, Victoria and the free ports of Vancouver Island only came under the operation of the British Columbia tariff on the proclamation of union, which did not take place until the 19th Nov., 1866. In the meantime, Victoria's speculators, having telegraphic news of the passing of the British Columbia Act at the time, had three months in which to lay in at least a year's stock for the whole

united colony, of liquors, tobacco and other goods, the duties on which formed the main staple of our revenue.

On becoming part of one colony the islanders claimed a right to enter their goods on the mainland free of duty, which, after a long fight and much injury to commerce, was at length allowed. Had provision been made for this by a clause imposing the tariff from the date of the Union Act, on Vancouver Island as well as British Columbia—or even on uncustomed goods coming into British Columbia through Vancouver Island—the same result would not have occurred. Another branch of the revenue in which a large reduction has taken place has been in the road tolls; this is owing to the action of the Legislature in affording additional facilities for the transport of farming produce to market, which will doubtless hereafter prove a boom to the agricultural population. I should also state that the quantity of land put under grain during the year, in addition to the strides agriculture has been taking throughout the country of late, however satisfactory from a political point of view, in giving the colony a new staple not only for its own supply but for export, has nevertheless put a sudden stop to the import of an article upon which the Government had depended for a distinct portion of the revenue. With these explanatory remarks I would now state that the revenue for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1866, is anticipated will amount to \$270,310, made up as follows:—Cash balances in hand, \$17,760; customs, \$150,000; road tolls, \$33,000; and licenses, \$33,000. The amount is actual figures, amounting down to the end of Dec 1867, will be:—For sinking fund, \$85,092; interest on road bonds and debentures, \$19,882; repayment of temporary loans, \$11,895; to Bank of British Columbia and interest, \$119,500; to Hudson's Bay Company for roads in the Kootenay district, \$8,200; Vancouver Island, \$47,125; roads, &c., \$95,000; and salaries, \$17,200—in all a total of \$493,894. This will leave a deficiency, according to the estimates to be provided for, amounting to over \$223,000.

Unsatisfactory, however, as our financial affairs appear at present, it is only proper to say that next year, whatever disturbing causes may arise, the position will be vastly improved, even if no alterations take place in the numbers of the population. Old stocks of merchandise will be exhausted, and new ones paying duty, and thus greatly swelling the revenue, introduced. Retrenchment, also, whenever possible, will be carefully effected in our government expenses. It is believed, in view of the promising future of the country, that a loan to meet the deficiency in the revenue for the present year will be obtained without difficulty. The agricultural accounts are everywhere of an encouraging character and the reports from the various gold fields, although of a somewhat chequered complexion, may be said on the whole to be very satisfactory. The carrying away of the great main drain of William Creek, Cariboo, and its subsequent replacement; the discoveries in Grouse Creek, where 100 ounces a day have been taken out by one company; the dispute between two leading companies—the unavoidable accompaniment of such rich discoveries for debatable ground between their respective claims; the discovery of gold fields in Cedar Creek and its tributaries, and a rush to test a reported rich find on Black Bear Creek in Cariboo, as well as the reported successful testing of one of the Canyon Creek gold quartz leads of several feet in width, and of a regular character, in Canyon Creek, by some experienced American quartz miners—all these and other particulars connected with the development of the country will no doubt in time attract the attention of people at home who take an active interest in the success of this colony. The geographical position of British Columbia, and particularly the advantages which New Westminster offers as the terminus of the great railway which is destined to stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, combined with the prospect of the actual consolidation of British power on the continent of North America, and the opening up to settlement of the fertile region intervening between Canada and British Columbia, all these are subjects which, it is felt here, will not be lost sight of in the mother country, and will tend to show that a prosperous future may with reason be expected for this distant and as yet isolated province of the British empire.

A LADY OF HIGH RANK.

Wife of one of the leading statesmen of England, says: "I have duly received the case of MURRAY & LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER, which you were kind enough to send me. I have tested its merits, and find it a most delightful perfume, more delicate and flower-like in its aroma than any other toilet preparation I have before used."

Purchasers should be particular to ask for the Florida Water prepared by Lanman & Kemp, New York, who are the sole proprietors of the genuine perfume.

THE BEST REMEDY FOR PURIFYING THE BLOOD, strengthening the Nerves, Restoring the Lost Appetite.

FRANK'S FRAMINGHAM FRUIT SYRUP is the best preservative against almost any disease, used simply. Composed of herbs, only it can be given safely to infants. Full directions in English, French, Spanish, and German, with every pocket. For sale at all the wholesale and retail drug stores and groceries.

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