

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, April 11, 1865

THE NEWS.

The intelligence brought yesterday by the Sierra Nevada is unusually exciting. Three severe battles, it would appear, have been fought at different points. On the 15th ultimo a heavy engagement took place between a portion of Sherman's army and Hardee's forces at Averysboro, or rather Averysboro, on the Cape Fear river, about twenty miles north of Fayetteville. The only accounts of the fight are from Southern sources. The Richmond papers announce the result as a great victory for Hardee, and put down the Federal loss at 3,800, and that of the Confederates at 450. The disparity of the losses is no doubt exaggerated, but we can easily understand that the Federal suffered more severely than their opponents. It was the policy of Johnston, the Southern commander, as stated in their despatch, to concentrate the Confederate forces and direct them on one or other of the wings of Sherman's army before that general could effect a junction with Schofield. With all the advantages, however, attached to the Confederate position, there was little disposition to assume the offensive, and Sherman's left wing had advanced as far as Averysboro, before anything like a fighting policy was indicated by the Confederates. Here, however, Hardee, in strong forces, had taken up a position on Cape Fear River, and it was in forcing this position that Sherman lost so heavily in men. The river was ultimately crossed, and Hardee retreated, leaving Sherman's left wing still pressing towards Goldsboro. On the 19th Sherman had advanced on Bentonville, twenty miles beyond Averysboro, and about half way to Goldsboro. Here his forces encountered the enemy under Johnston, and another heavy battle ensued, which is claimed as a victory by the Confederates. Like the victory at Averysboro, however, it did not seem to disarrange Sherman's plans, for we find him still advancing until he at length formed the desired junction with Schofield. In the meantime the right wing advanced from Fayetteville on the wagon road that connects that town with the Wilmington and Goldsboro railway. The distance between the two wings was about twenty miles. The right wing was less liable to molestation than the left; for Terry's forces were marching on the Wilmington line of railway and would be likely at short notice to form a junction with Sherman. On the 21st the right wing came in contact with the Confederates at Mount Olive, on the line of railway about ten miles south of Goldsboro. The fighting was of short duration, however, for on the same day Schofield on the Newbern line had entered Goldsboro, and the Confederate forces were therefore flanked, necessitating on their part a rapid retreat towards Raleigh. Sherman's right wing then opened communication with Schofield and Terry, and he left marched on Smithfield, almost half-way between Goldsboro and Raleigh. The latter place, the capital of the State, was expected to make but short resistance. In this last effort at the converging lines the Federals have been signal success, and show what strides they have made in military movements since the blunder at Pittsburg Landing. Sherman starts from Charleston, and travels over three hundred miles through the enemy's country, before he can form a junction with the Federal forces in North Carolina. It is arranged, however, that Schofield shall advance from Newbern in a north-westerly course, and meet him at Goldsboro, seventy-two miles from San Francisco, April 1.—The overland line commenced working again at 5 o'clock this evening. The first bus and drama were given by William Ross, boatswain of the Great Republic, who was to-day convicted of beating a seaman with a dangerous weapon—an iron belay-pin.

A market for the coal is much needed; this great want once secured, the prosperity of the town would be largely enhanced. The fine new wharf is approaching completion, and the bridge leading thereto, 1,100 feet long, is now being planked preparatory to the laying down of the rails, &c. Several hundred tons of railway iron were received by the Generals Wyndham and Knight Bruce, to be used on the new branch of the railway, which is calculated to still further improve the present means for loading the largest class of vessels. The large outlay made by the Victoria Coal Company at Nanaimo the last two years must ultimately be productive of results beneficial to the province. The power of adjudicating upon small debts is now understood to be given to the magistrates at Nanaimo, an act to this purport having been passed. Scarcely anything could be more acceptable to the merchants and traders here than this law, and the sooner it is put into operation the better.

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of the Confederates was then assailed by the Federals, but it was not until after several attempts had been made that the Northern troops were successful. The place was ultimately taken, and with 2,000 prisoners. Grant puts down the total losses of the Confederates in this engagement, or rather series of engagements, at 3,000, and his own at 800. It is just possible that this important collision may have led to a general battle, resulting in the rather startling denouement announced by yesterday's steamer, and that Grant, after cooping up the Southern army for the best part of a year behind the walls and breastworks of Richmond, had at length achieved the great object of Northern ambition—the capture of the Southern capital. A few days will decide the truth or falsity of the statement; in the meantime, however, the position of the South, whether we look at it in a military, financial or social light, is becoming more and more untenable.

NANAIMO NEWS.

(FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT).

The work of building the first Literary Institute in these colonies is commenced. Nanaimo, the second town of importance in this colony, is first in this work, and will have the honor of presenting a most valuable institution.

Though only second in commercial importance, Nanaimo may be considered of rather higher rank with its mineral wealth taken into account.

Last month a greater quantity of coal was raised than ever before yielded in a like period; the stock of coal on hand is consequently increasing, while the demand continues steady. The expectation of some animation, however, is general.

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CALIFORNIA NEWS.

(Telegraphic to the Oregonian.)

SAN FRANCISCO, April 1.—The overland line commenced working again at 5 o'clock this evening. The first bus and drama were given by William Ross, boatswain of the Great Republic, who was to-day convicted of beating a seaman with a dangerous weapon—an iron belay-pin.

The Yellow Jacket Mining Company declared a dividend of one hundred dollars per foot, the Imperial a dividend of ten dollars per share.

The coroner's jury found that Mrs. Muller was accidentally killed by her brother-in-law, John Muller.

The opposition steamer Moss Taylor will sail on the 13th. The rates of fare have not been fixed yet, but will be about one hundred dollars for the first cabin, sixty-five for the second, and thirty-five for the steerage.

Currency exchange to-day 60 premium 1½ per cent. Legal tenders opened dull at 61½ @ 62, but closed firm at quotes.

Steamships for California.—The Pacific Mail Steamship Company are building two new steamers for California, to be called the Colorado and Henry Chauncy. The first named is to be 3,500 tons burthen, the latter 3,000, and both are to be fitted up in first class style. They have also completed two others for Canadian waters, named the Arizona and Washoe. The Baltic and Atlantic are also spoken of as for the California trade.

From the Bulletin the Pacific Mail Steamship Company intend to secure the China and San Francisco mail steamer service, and design to put some of the new craft on that line.—*Oregonian.*

Floor: 1,000 sacks of Oregon superfine at 13 25 cash—2,000 gr. sacks Oregon superfine sold at 35 50. Wheat: some sales at 50.

Barley: 500 sacks good to choice sold private; we quote feed at 3c. Hay: 50 tons sold at \$19. and 500 sacks of mod.

Arrived steamer Brother Jonathan, three days from Portland sent need bad dry.

San Francisco, April 2.—Arrived British ship Kachetia, 60 days from Yokohama, full cargo: bark Onward, 20 days from Honolulu. The Golden Age sails to-morrow carrying about one hundred passengers. No other load now.

BOILER ITEMS.

We are indebted to M. B. Millard, Esq., for late copies of *Bone* papers, from which we learn that the tunnels run in the Bonner quarry district are striking the ledges very successfully, and developing rich ore. Great expectations seem based on the Bonner District.

Very rich ore had been received from White Sherman, with the United forces of Schofield and Terry, is marching with the strides and power of a giant north. Grant has been putting in finishing strokes to all adequate to the Virginia campaign. The Southern forces are to be repulsed, and

Grant, after four days' hard fighting, had succeeded in capturing Richmond. Such a short telegram that was announced in

Pittsburg, by the starting of the Sierra Leone steamer, is always dubious of the telegrams that arrive just before the steamer leaves, and however possible of even pro

able the fall of the Southern capital may be, it would be as well that the statement should be taken with extreme degrees of circumspection.

According to the regular despatches a heavy engagement had taken place between a portion

of Grant and Lee's forces, a little distance from Richmond. The Confederates by a sudden attack, gained possession of a fort in a commanding position on the Federal side, and numerous guns on the Federal troops emboldened by this success, they at

met a second work called Fort Haskell.

Here, however, the Federals were more on the alert, and the Southern forces were repulsed with heavy loss. The fort in the possession

of the Confederates was then assailed by the Federals, but it was not until after several

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troops were successful. The place was ultim-

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The next steamer.—The mail steamer

May be expected to call at San Francisco for this port via Portland on the 4th inst.

WHOLESALE DEPOT—19, Queen St., London.

COLEMAN ST., LONDON.