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THE BRITISH COLONIST
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DAVID W. HIGGINS.
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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
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TERMS:
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AGENTS.
S. D. LLOYD, Victoria, B. C.
G. S. GARDNER, New Westminster, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Victoria, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, New Westminster, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Nanaimo, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Port Moody, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Port Alberni, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Courtenay, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Ladysmith, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Campbell River, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Qualicum, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Comox, B. C.
J. W. HIGGINS, Duncan, B. C.
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J. W. HIGGINS, Duncan, B. C.

The communication of our correspondent "M. R." will convey to our readers as good an idea of the total absence of all energy on the part of the Executive here, and its natural consequence—the spathy of the people themselves—as we could demonstrate in the ordinary limits of an article. We are told—which we do not pretend to gainsay—that our population is composed of a very superior class of people for intelligence and enterprise; yet they are content to allow industrious men to come here and go away again because they cannot find employment, although we are thoroughly convinced that any amount of mineral wealth exists on this Island to say nothing of the Mainland, a great part of which is still unexplored by the white man. The question very readily suggests itself, what kind of a superiority and intelligence do we possess that makes us so careless about the very land on which we live? some hope that in course of time the country will develop itself and convey to us all the requisite information for, are we a community of Micawbers and waiting for something to turn up? One might almost think that the something to turn up would turn out to be an earthquake, we appear so reluctant to penetrate the interior of this little Island. Were we living on the Philippines, where the high mountains and trackless swamps are infected by the most venomous reptiles, and the wild animals are of the most formidable character, we should have some excuse; but here our greatest difficulties do not exceed those that are met with by adventurous tourists in Scotland, with a climate very far its superior: the most inaccessible portion of this Island is not more than thirty miles from the seacoast. The fine bays and inlets on the coast of the Mainland are only known by the inequalities on the map, and are absolutely being used as fishing stations by our neighbours, while we are regaling one another with elaborate discourses on the hard times. (?) We suspect that many of those who complain most bitterly about the hardness of the times, are like the old country farmers who are always heard to growl the most in the most successful seasons. Whatever may be the reason of our very incompatible qualities, when we consider our remarkable superiority in intelligence and enterprise, the facts are still the same; we have a country unexplored that is very likely to be valuable as mineral lands, and if we are disinclined to develop them in consequence of the very conservative peculiarities of our unique government, we might—as the expense of ascertaining the extent and character of the mines would be small, (vide communication) allow somebody to do it for us. We shall be always making expenses until, by some lucky turn in the wheel of fortune, we find a government that we can afford to pay, and one that by its energy and promptitude in securing to the people of this Colony every possible advantage, will make the institution a real source of profit to the people. We commend, therefore, the proposals of "M. R." to our citizens, and trust that they will

be at once complied with. "M. R." will doubtless be ready to give every satisfaction in relation to the amount of work done, and by arranging for constant communication with some one here who is well up in the topography of the coast, anything novel in relation thereto can be carefully noted. The outlay in money and "grub" will be a mere bagatelle when spread over a number; and a few acres of land that will secure hardworking settlers to the colony should be given without hesitation. There is another exploring party that our commercial people should at once set on foot. We allude to the exploration of the Selkirk range for a practicable route as a continuation of the Eagle Pass road; if, as is supposed, there is a good, practicable line for a road through these mountains, there will be no difficulty in having the permanent way constructed. There are people ready to make the roads for right of charging a small toll for a stipulated number of years; and if a good, reliable party of explorers, headed by a man in whom confidence could be placed, were to start out, the road might be constructed this season. It is of no use depending upon the government taking the necessary steps; if we do so the result will be disappointment and loss to the Colony. Every argument was used last session to induce the government to move in the matter, and certain promises were made; but, alas! for the promises of our Executive. Experience has taught us to place very little reliance upon them. If any large sum of money as a necessary outlay was involved in the affair, we should of course attribute the delay of the authorities to a possible want of means; but that is not the case; a small sum would be of incalculable benefit to the Colony.

Thursday, April 22

Bankruptcy Court.

Wednesday, April 21, 1869.
M. Munro—Passed his second examination.
Re Macdonald—Adjourned for confirmation of sale on 27th March last of Esquimalt property.
W. Lyons—Adjourned for further consideration after the money shall have been paid into Court.
Dickson, Campbell & Co vs. R. Woods—In this case, after hearing affidavits of Mr. J. O. Nicholson, read by Mr. Wood, the Chief Justice consented to request Chief Justice Begbie to try the case.

INDIAN DEPUTATION.—Yesterday a number of Cowichan Indians waited upon his Excellency the Governor to complain of the manner in which they have been disposed of their lands. His Excellency received the Indians kindly. A Catholic priest, who has labored long and successfully with the tribe, acted as interpreter. It appears the savages are dissatisfied with the survey made a year ago by the Government officers. The Governor offered them facilities for fencing in their land and other privileges; but the Indians still expressing dissatisfaction, another interview was arranged for to-morrow; when it is hoped the difficulties will be smoothed over, as a state of feeling which bodes no good is fast growing up in the minds of the East Coast Indians, who believe that they have been cruelly wronged by the alienation of their lands.

THE VEX' QUESTION.—Yesterday, in the suit of Dickson, Campbell & Co. vs. R. Woods, affidavits were read by Mr. Wood on behalf of the plaintiffs, and the Chief Justice decided that the nature of the case was such as to require the presence of Chief Justice Begbie on the bench. The case will, therefore, be tried by Mr. Begbie. We are glad that this suit is at last in a fair way of settlement, and we believe that in declining to sit and hear the case Mr. Needham has acted with wisdom.

Geo. Cole, Esq., ex-Governor of Washington Territory and Secretary for Ben. Holladay's line of railroad from Portland to Puget Sound, is in town awaiting the arrival of the steamship Oriflamme from Portland.

STRENGTH MOVEMENTS.—A message received by Mr. Brodick, Agent, last evening, stated that the steamship Oriflamme sailed from Portland for Victoria at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and that the Gussie Taylor would leave for Victoria on Friday evening.

THE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE.—Another of those delightful soirées, provided with so much taste by the Committee of Management of the above Institution, took place on Tuesday evening last. The opening piece "Hail Smiling Morn," by Messrs. White, Fox, Jenkinson and Wilson, was nicely executed and well received by the audience. Hon. P. J. Hankin followed by reading the history of Little Dombey from Dickens' Dombey and Son. The affecting little story is well known, and probably none of those exquisite touches of domestic life for which Dickens is celebrated can exceed it in beauty and pathos. How the strange, weird-like little spirit seemed to fascinate everyone that came within its influence, and how like the receding strains of music it faded away into the spirit world. The strong ties of affection that subsisted between the child and his sister "Floey," the pompous self-complacent merchant Mrs. Chign, who insisted on the dying mother of little Paul making "an effort," are all described as Dickens alone can describe them; and read in the clear, distinct tones, modulated to suit the person represented as speaking, pleasanter than that of hearing Mr. Hankin in these charming readings. There could be no doubt as to the effect on the audience, everyone was deeply moved and applauded Mr. Hankin at the close with hearty goodwill. Messrs. White and Wilson sang a fine old ditty "The Manly Heart," to which they imparted a finish that made it in our opinion the *morceau* of the evening. A trio on the flute was remarkably well played by Messrs. Leigh *per se* for which they received a merited encore. They were succeeded by Messrs. White, Fox, Jenkinson and Wilson, who sang a sparkling quartet "Banish O Maiden," with such spirit, that they received a rapturous recall to which they responded after a short intermission by singing the "Mill Wheel." They afterwards rendered the "Day Slowly Declining," exhibiting in each case great knowledge of musical effect. Miss Palmer sang a sweet little song "Give me thy Blessing," and pleased the audience so much that she was loudly encored. The song, without showing a great deal of originality, is pretty and

viding that on an application for Registration under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, in that possession of any ship not exceeding sixty tons burden, the Registrar may grant, in lieu of a Certificate of Registry as required by that Act, a Certificate of Registry to be terminated at the end of six months from the granting thereof, or of any longer period; and all Certificates of Registry granted under such regulations shall be in such form and shall have effect subject to such conditions as the regulations prescribe.
2. Notwithstanding anything in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, or in any other Act, any ship to which a certificate is granted under any such regulations shall, while such certificate is in force, and in relation to all things done or omitted during that period be deemed a registered British ship.
3. The Governor or Officer lawfully administering the Government of any British Possession may from time to time, with the consent of the Council, make such regulations as may be necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act, 1854, in that behalf made.

THE TARIFF REVISION COMMISSION.—A meeting of this body was held yesterday, the hon. Collector of Customs in the Chair. We understand that the Commission will invite the opinions of merchants, manufacturers, farmers and others, and that it is their intention to revise the tariff in a manner that shall prove beneficial to all interests. In this connection, we observe that an impression has gone out that the change will be immediate. This is erroneous. No change can possibly be made before the next meeting of the Legislative Council, or, at least until the report of the Commission shall have been submitted, and an extra session convened to pass upon the report; and even then, if the Governor has received instructions to refer all proposed changes in the Tariff to the Home Government, the revised Tariff cannot come into force until the Colonial Office has examined it. We hope, sincerely hope—that the appointment of this Commission is not a sop thrown out to lay the indignation that has been kindled in the breasts of all good citizens against the Executive in consequence of its inactivity and heartlessness.

FOR PUGET SOUND.—The steamers Wilson G. Hunt and Eliza Anderson sailed hence for Puget Sound yesterday noon. The Bishop of Columbia and Mrs. Hills sailed by the Hunt. They were met on the wharf by a large number of friends, who bade them "God speed" on their journey. Among the passengers by the Eliza Anderson was Mr. Ed. Lowenberg, one of our pioneer citizens, who makes his first visit to Puget Sound.

PACIFIC EXPEDITION FOR PEACE RIVER.—The citizens of Quesselmouth and Soda creek district have succeeded in raising about \$1100 to equip a party for the purpose of exploring the headwaters of Findlay's branch of Peace river. The government has offered \$500 additional; but we understand that \$1000 has been asked for. It is proposed to send six or eight old miners with a twelve-months' supply of provisions and otherwise fully equipped for work. The route which they will probably take will be through Stewart's Lake to Lake Taida, and thence northerly to the streams which flow from Findlay's branch. Among those who are expected to go are named Dancon McMartin, James May, Black Jack and others known as old prospectors. We think that this move will result in developing a large and rich gold region.

ANOTHER CONCESSION.—SHIPS TO BE SURVEYED DUTY FREE OUT OF BOND.—We understand that orders have been issued to permit the supply of ship with stores out of bond duty free. This is another move in the right direction. Let the good work go on. The vox populi is at last being listened to. Well would it have been for the Executive and the Colony had it received the same respectful consideration years ago.

THE CHURCH IN THE AIR.—They have got a magician (Mr. Hartz) at San Francisco, who produces on the stage one of the strangest and most unaccountable optical illusions ever exhibited. The curtain rises and you see the head and shoulders of a beautiful angel being poised among the azure clouds, with wings unfolded. The body has faded away like a mist, and the face is so sweet as to seem not of this earth. It appears like a fairy dream. You are awakened to the reality by Mr. Hartz, desiring the fair being to turn her head to one side and again to the front. A distant shadow is thrown on the clouds in the background from a powerful gas-light reflector stationed between the audience and the "cherub." The shadow moves as the head moves. If you remain quite still it appears that the head and wings are emerging from the clouds. But by changing position it is seen that the "cherub" is some distance in front of the clouds. The "cherub" upon being asked if she can talk, distinctly answers: "I can." The audience, by request, move around the room, and then to within a few feet of the stage, and every change of position intensifies the delusion. Nothing can seem more real than that there, within the distance of a few feet, is poised in mid-air the head and wings of a real and beautiful being, with features lit by a quiet smile, with expressive eyes, with everything as perfect, to all appearance, as are the very acquaintances of every-day life. And the curtain rolls down leaving you in doubt almost as to the fact of your own existence, and quite as to the degree of credence worthy of being given to your senses.

REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN SHIPPERS.—One also proximity to the parts on the Sound, where shipbuilding is carried on so largely, may render a knowledge of the Imperial Act respecting the registration of foreign vessels of importance to our community; we therefore append the Act 31 and 32 Vic., Cap. 129, passed 31st July, 1868.
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From the Mainland—\$90,000 in Treasure Arrived.—The steamer Enterprise arrived at 6 o'clock last evening from New Westminster, bringing 18 passengers, Barnard's Express, with \$70,000 and a Government mail. There were also \$20,000 in private hands. Among the passengers were Mr. Cunningham of New Westminster, Dr. Foster of Clinton, and Mr. Schofield of Quesselmouth. The upper river steamer Enterprise was to have made her first trip yesterday. The water in the river opposite Soda creek was low, and the ice all gone. The farmers at Soda creek had got their seed in and the yield, it is anticipated, will exceed that of any previous year.

From Clinton we learn that there was no snow on the ground and that no rain had fallen of late. The farming prospects are very encouraging. At Yale there have been heavy rains, and a portion of the wagon road was washed away. Bon's pakeitain (the first of the season) left Yale for Keithley creek on the 15th. Land near Boston Bar is worth \$160 an acre, and hay, \$60 per ton. The Yale Examiner estimates that from \$20,000 to \$30,000 in dust was dug from the bars of Thompson river last winter. Silver ore has been found near Lytton; Hauley & Co. have secured some rich specimens.

MINING INTELLIGENCE.
[From the Sentinel, April 8.]
The Cariboo Co. washed last week 87 oz.; Canadian Co. 80 oz.; Barker Co. 80 oz.; Baldhead Co. 50 oz.

CONKLIN GULCH.
The Eclipse Co. have not got into their own ground yet; they have been running through a point of bed rock.

THE COOMBS CO. have commenced washing from their tunnel, with good prospects. Jenkins Co. have just bottomed their shaft over the back channel. Hill claims have been staked off by some of the companies below, under the impression that the old channel is in the hill on the south side of the gulch.

THE MINNEHABA CO. has commenced work on the "ghost" shaft. They divided last week 75 ounces over expense.

QUEENSLAND RIVER—NORTH FORK.
The water on the North Fork being lower this winter than for many years, several companies have taken advantage of the circumstances and put in wing-dams, and a good deal of money is being taken out. This season, with the creek adjacent, will be tried during the coming season, and anticipations of results are sanguine. Provisions, which have been very high all winter, are becoming more plenty, flour at Keithley being now offered at 35 cents.

CONKLIN GULCH.
Nothing new has been struck. The Eclipse tunnel has not yet got in. A company called the White Pine has been located at the head of the gulch. The Renfrew and Indian Queen are working, but cannot wash dirt to advantage in consequence of scarcity of water.

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A company has been formed at Soda creek and Quesselmouth to prospect the head waters of Fraser and Peace Rivers, and the Government has given instruction to Mr. Brew to contribute an equal amount to what is raised by the company, if not exceeding five hundred dollars, towards the expense of the expedition.

A most daring robbery was perpetrated on Monday last on Conklin Gulch. Mr. John Reese, a shareholder in the Indian Queen company, on going to work in the morning left in the pocket of his coat, in his cabin, a pocket book containing \$450 in bank notes and a specimen. On returning to dinner at noon, he forgot to take it with him as he had intended, but in the evening when he came from work, he went to the coat pocket and found the pocket book there, but the notes had vanished.

The suit of the Barker Co. vs. the Canadian Co., for alleged trespass, was decided in favor of the defendants. The suit of Hunt & Co. vs. the Ericson Co., to recover \$2,000 for alleged trespass, was decided in favor of the plaintiffs—the ground in dispute to be surrendered by defendants, who pay in addition \$500 as damages.