

The Weekly British Colonist

AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, September 12, 1868.

The Coming Struggle.

Is it a fact that the people of this Colony are against avowing their belief in the necessity for an improvement in the system of government? or is it true that they dread the consequences of the publication of such an avowal? The delegates who will soon meet at Yale have no doubt ere this, fully satisfied themselves as to the real state of popular feeling upon these questions. They must not however forget that there is a considerable amount of wire-pulling at work on the part of those interested in leaving the present public institutions undisturbed, for the sole purpose of attempting to neutralise the efforts of the Convention. The representatives of the people must recollect that they have some astute minds to deal with, minds keenly alive to the necessity of making a struggle for the loaves and fishes, for although the official policy is to disavow all knowledge of opposition springing from the people and to profess contempt for the chief promoters of the movement which is now on foot to reform the administration of public affairs in the Colony, and pity for those whom they are pleased to call the unfortunate dupes of political adventurers, yet there is a leaven of caution displayed by the heads of departments, who see a storm looming in the distance, which they well know must destroy them, if they do not bend to it. Most of our readers must doubtless have witnessed the attempts to carry popular favor previous to general elections, on the part of those who at other times may perhaps have been loud in their expressions of contempt for any symptom of bending to popular feeling in others; those who would keep their places at all risks to their reputation for true statesmanship, who stoop to acts which at other seasons they would be prominent in condemning. In a small society like our own it would be too marked for prominent Government officials to alter their tone completely in public, and those who do not carefully watch the signs of the times will not see the little manoeuvres which show how those who have much to lose by a reform in the Governmental system, endeavor to counteract the efforts of the people. There is no doubt about it, horses with a sleek look of official stables about them hang upon their bridles in the principal streets of the city in these times more than was their wont when the people took things quietly; and the riders of these same steeds, with an equally unmistakable look of comfort and well-doing about them, condescend more than of old to greetings in the streets and salutations in public places. The official finger playfully toys with the buttonhole of the politician in a manner that is foreign to the disciples of officialism, and at once bespeaks apprehension of danger and a desire to stand well with those who may, by a turn in the wheel, have some voice in the disposition of places hereafter. It will be well that those representing the people at the Convention should bear in mind that they have not mere dummies to deal with. Lax as the heads of departments have been in any efforts to improve the system of government, and thereby the condition of the people; slow as they have, shown themselves at taking up the popular view of the principal matters that have been brought before the Legislative Council by the popular members since the union of the Colonies; careless as they have been of the wishes of the people, and indifferent as they have shown themselves to everything in their respective departments except the careful addition of the official payroll—we must guard against setting down this apathy, sloth, carelessness and indifference, to want of ability. The Convention may rest assured that the slightest scent of danger will sharpen the official nose, and in attacking the vested interests of the officials they will encounter opposition

as strenuous, as desperate clinging to office can make it; moreover those in power have, to a certain extent, the command of the position, and those who lead the assault against them have generally an arduous task before them. We point these things out with the view of disheartening the people in the struggle upon which they have entered, but in order that they may not allow too great confidence in the cause to lead them to despise their opponents. The victory must be with the people if they are true to themselves, although a false step might jeopardize the cause. The delegates will go to the Convention in full possession of the wishes of the people, it will rest with them to devise proper measures for carrying out those wishes. It will rest with them to let the Colonial Office understand that this is no party movement set on foot for political ends, and to be carried out for gain and gratification. The Home Government must be informed correctly of the state of public feeling upon the chief matters affecting the Colonial policy, they must be placed in a position to test the correctness of the information afforded them, and above all the information must be full and ample on every point upon which the people can throw any light, much depends upon a fair and concise statement, and whilst evils are carefully pointed out grievances must not be unnecessarily magnified.

Thursday, Sept 10.

CARIBOO ITEMS FROM THE 'SENTINEL'.—Excitement has been caused at Mosquito Creek, Mr J T Scott and others having taken up a piece of ground lying as alleged, between the proper boundaries of the Minnehaha, on Mosquito Gulch, and the Hwaitha and Tom and Jerry on Red Gulch. The Minnehaha Co brought an action of ejectment against Mr Scott and his party, laying damages at \$250. The suit was heard before the Commissioner on the 31st ult, but Commissioner Brew reserved his decision till the 3rd inst, when a number of witnesses were examined. Sam Passmore, formerly one of the Sappers, met with a serious accident in the Big Lead claim Mosquito Creek, on the 30th ult, by falling a distance of forty feet into a shaft, cutting his head badly and breaking one of his ankles. A horse belonging to Mr Jennings fell over a precipice into the Queneel River, and was lost with the cargo. At a meeting of the Caledonia Benevolent Society, held on Saturday the 22nd ult, officers were elected to office for the ensuing year. "The glass-eyed gentleman who undertook to play smart by taking a trip to Peters creek, and forgot to stop when he got to the end of his journey, was on Monday overtaken in Cache creek, and reminded that he had gone too far, and that he would be obliged to hurry back to Barkerville, as the man from whom he had borrowed the horse was getting uneasy about him, and that others were anxious to relieve him of the responsibility of holding money not his own. Mr Sullivan has very kindly offered to conduct him back, in safety, lest he might again go astray." The Hard-up Company on Grouse creek, have struck at last what they suppose to be the channel, through which runs the Heron lead, so long looked for.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—By the bark Camden we have dates via the Sound to the 25th July. The estimated value of this year's crop of sugar is set down at twenty millions of dollars—an increase of over two millions of dollars on the crop of last year. A fire was discovered in the hold of the mail steamer Montana on the morning of the 22nd caused by the spontaneous combustion of some barrels of pulp which had been lying on the wharf for several days and had become wet from some cause. It was supposed that the action of the sun had generated heat which resulted in the subsequent combustion of the pulp. The fire was extinguished without damage. His Majesty the King visited the United States war steamer Mohongo on Thursday forenoon, and was received with Royal honors. His Ex. the American Minister was on board during the occasion, and the King was accompanied with his aide-de-camp in uniform. On leaving the vessel he received the same honors as on his arrival. They are having an abundance of rain in Kona Hawaii. For eight months a drought had prevailed, and in consequence there is a scarcity of the native staff of life, *poi* of which large quantities are now sent up by every vessel leaving for that district. Owing to this drought, the orange crop will be almost nothing this year.

THE DISS RUN OFF WITH THE SPOON.—Yesterday, Mr Phillips' soda-water wagon ran off, with the horse, from Yates street through Broad and home to Fort street. The young gentleman what does the driving, showed his agility and nimble got clear of the trouble. No spilled milk.

YALE NEWS FROM THE 'EXAMINER'.—The Yale road tolls for the past month amounted to \$5,868 22. For the same month, last year, they were \$4,590 51. For the same month of 1866, they were \$5,535 26. The tolls received this year up to August 31st, amounted to \$26,875 52. For the same period last year, \$20,719 06. For the same period in 1866, \$31,774. The total sum of subscriptions to the Agricultural Exhibition amount to nearly \$700, and prizes open to all exhibitors, have been fixed as high as the amount of money will admit of. Two hundred dollars have been collected in Cariboo towards the object. Mr R Smith will represent Lytton at the Yale Convention, Mr R Tynon—Lillooet, Mr J Donnelly—Harrison river. Three delegates have been appointed from Cariboo. The Deputy Sheriff failed to catch up with Jim Sellers who, it appears, has suddenly disappeared from his creditors. The water in the Fraser will now admit of a favorable chance to examine the 'sisters' rocks. Admiral Hastings and party had arrived at Yale on the way to the interior.

THE INDIANS.—Owing to the stringent measures adopted to secure the public health, the Indians residing in the town and neighborhood left yesterday for other parts, in large numbers. Out of the 4 cases of small-pox on the Reserve, 2 died yesterday, and two are considered in a way to recover. Eleven shanties have been burned, and by to night, it is expected, there will scarcely be a Hydah left amongst us. His Lordship the Bishop and Mrs Hills visited the sick at the Reserve yesterday, and saw that everything was done for the poor creatures that could be done. The remainder of the Hydah village will be destroyed. The infectious disease existing amongst them was at first brought by an Indian from Port Gamble, and had spread rapidly before our authorities were aware of its existence.

FIRE INQUEST.—An inquiry was made yesterday before Mr Pemberton into the cause of the fire on the night of the 2nd inst, which destroyed the premises of John Finnan, near the north end of Douglas street. Eight witnesses including six females it appears, were examined and a verdict of incendiarism was found by the jury. The house was unoccupied at the time of the fire and according to evidence at the inquest, was insured for \$800 in the 'Royal'.

FIREMEN'S PARADE.—The Union Hook & Ladder Company had their last full dress torchlight parade, and drill last night. The company met at their Truck House, on Bastion street, at 8 o'clock, and marched to the old Star Hotel on Fort street, headed by the Volunteer band. At this point they went through drill, scaling the building, etc, and finished by parading the principal streets. At a later hour the company sat down to a repast in their own building, to which a number of friends were invited, and passed the evening with that good spirit found amongst firemen. The company turned out in full force and made an excellent appearance.

COAL PROSPECTING.—A company consisting of Messrs Gibbs, Jungermann, Gowan, Laumeister and Hand, have had men at work for this last month in North Saanich, on two seams of coal which crop out on Smith's ranch. One seam is two and a half feet thick, the other three feet, and the workmen are following down, on an incline, with a view of finding the junction of the two seams. The shaft is down 50 feet, and has cost so far in the neighborhood of \$500. It is to be hoped this enterprising company, for the good example they thus set, may meet with general success. A coal mine at Saanich would be a fine property.

THE CHARGES OF TIME.—The first newspaper ever published in America, was printed by Richard Pierce, of Boston, on 25th Sept, 1690, one hundred and seventy-eight years ago. The General Court took the sheet into custody, held solemn debate over the disturber of the public quiet, and voted it contained reflections of a very high nature, the publication of which were contrary to law. It never made a second appearance. What would the members of the General Court say if they could take a peep at some of the Boston papers of 1868?

THE SYNAGOGUE.—It is gratifying to know that the last instalment of the indebtedness upon this building was paid off this week. The mortgage, with interest, amounted to more than \$5,000, and the debt was incurred in times of our prosperity. It speaks well for the fidelity of the few left amongst us, who worship in the Synagogue, that the larger amount of the indebtedness upon it, should have been discharged during the most trying period of our depression.

NEW PILOT BOAT.—A beautifully modelled boat lies at the Hudson Bay Co's wharf, which was built by Mr Burr at San Juan, for the Victoria Pilots. She is called after the Colonial Secretary, W A G Young, Esq, and will be ready for service in the course of a week. A wager of \$100 to \$50 is said to be pending, that on the day of trial she will beat anything that can be brought against her.

Bankruptcy Court.

(Before His Lordship Chief Justice Neidham.)

Wednesday, Sept 9th, 1868.

James Wilcox, a Bankrupt, passed 3rd examination, application to be made in 30 days for discharge.

In re Balls.—Adjourned for a fortnight, for the purpose of completing purchase of certain property belonging to the Bankrupt.

Shirper vs Hutchinson.—Application for security for costs. Mr Drake attorney for defendant, Mr Bishop for plaintiff. Order granted.

Mitchell, deceased.—Application to appoint Mr Wood as plaintiff instead of Mitchell, deceased in an action Mitchell vs Robb and others. Application granted.

CUSTOM-HOUSE LAWS IN ALASKA.—A bill has been carried through both branches of Congress and signed by the President which extends the Custom-house laws and regulations against smuggling, to Alaska. It provides for only one officer, namely, a Collector at Sitka. There was some talk about establishing a Territorial Government up there, but no action took place, and the country remains in charge of the military.

THE STEAMER GS WRIGHT arrived from Portland yesterday about midday. She brought thirteen passengers and nearly 70 tons of freight for this port. In addition to this, she has on board 65 tons of freight for the Sound, for which place she leaves this morning, and will return with all possible dispatch to Victoria. She reports the Active may be expected here about 4 o'clock to-day.

PRESERVED FISH.—Mr P Manson has returned to his old business of drying and curing salmon, herring and blowers, for shipment and family use. The establishment is situated on Humboldt street, near Douglas street, and when in working order, judging from the stock on hand, it will turn out as good an article of preserved fish as can be had on the coast.

AN ENCOUNTER.—Two gentlemen known in our commercial circles, got into a dispute yesterday on Yates street, about some land; and from words, not of the most polite nature, proceeded to blows. The one of (a)rabian frame delivered the most striking arguments in the dispute. The matter, it is said, will not end at present, but is likely to take another shape.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday from New Westminster with fifteen passengers, the mail and Cariboo Express. "No news in the local papers." A meeting is called for this evening to elect delegates to the Convention. A Chinaman was killed by a falling tree on Monday last.

POLICE COURT.—Ski-las, the Indian arrested under the charge of being one of the party, shooting on Sunday night on the Indian Reserve, was yesterday bound over to keep the peace for six months in the sum of \$100, or in default of payment to be imprisoned for four months.

U S S SAGINAW.—This vessel left last evening for San Francisco. During their somewhat protracted stay in Victoria, the officers generally, have ingratiated themselves with many of our citizens.

Apple Culture.

EDITOR COLONIST:—Not having observed in your paper any replies to the various questions relating to gardening and farming, contained in your issue of a former date, I beg to offer on some of the questions a few remarks of my own, in hope they may supply at least a part of the information sought by your querist. In common with various parts of the world, the soil and climate of this Colony cannot fail to have some special influence for good or harm on the various choice productions of older countries; therefore, if intelligent men who are engaged in the pursuits of gardening and farming, would take note of these changes and record them for the benefit of mankind, much valuable data would accumulate for our future guidance. In older communities, practical men take great pleasure recording their various ideas and experience on all matters connected with gardening and farming, and surely we, of British Columbia, are not so far in advance of them that we can afford to allow the knowledge and experience of intelligent men to perish with them. I trust, therefore, if any of your readers have arrived at results at variance with the remarks that I am about to offer, that you will allow them space to record them. As a little ambiguity seems to pervade some of the questions, I will endeavor to make my remarks as comprehensive as I can.

Yours, &c.,

H. MITCHELL.

THE APPLE—SORTS & TREATMENT.

Considering the various uses of the apple, it may be considered as a fruit of more use and benefit to the public in general, than all the other fruits that can be cultivated in this country; but owing to the uncertainty and multiplicity of names under which certain

varieties are known, the orchardist experiences the greatest difficulty in making his selection. Nurserymen have much to answer for in creating much of this confusion, many of them being more anxious to grow a large stock for sale, than to be careful as to its character, and people purchasing trees become deceived by this procedure, and do not discover the error until much valuable time has been lost in their culture, causing disappointment and loss. Judging by the past, so far as my observations have extended, the grower of the apple, if he wishes to attain success in its culture in this Colony, will have to exercise a larger amount of discrimination in the selection of his orchard site, than seems in many cases heretofore to have been brought to bear on the subject. It is true that the apple will grow on a variety of soils, but its favorite soil in all countries is a strong calcareous, clayey, marley or sandy loam, resting on a gravelly subsoil. If too wet, the soil may be rendered fit by thorough draining, and if too dry, by deep subsoiling or trenching. In all cases the soil should be well prepared before planting by deep digging or subsoil ploughing, and where necessary, by the addition of rotten manure, as no after management can in a dry climate like ours, equal the effects of this early and deep loosening of the soil. The season best adapted for planting the apple tree in this climate is decidedly early autumn, just as the leaves begin to drop, and which usually happens about the end of October or beginning of November. At this season of the year, the soil being a natural hot-bed, stimulates the tree to push out innumerable roots, thoroughly establishing it before the arrival of winter puts an end to vegetative action; and when spring arrives it shoots forth in all its pristine vigour. In planting, avoid the error of burying the roots too deep, no tree should be planted deeper than it former grew in the nursery lines; after the operation of planting well, mulch the ground considerably beyond that to which the roots extend, with straw, dung or litter, and when spring arrives add thereto a quantity sufficient to prevent the soil from drying up in the summer months. The distance at which the permanent trees should be planted in the orchard should be thirty feet, trees to occupy the ground temporarily may be planted between the permanent ones, to be out away as the principal trees require room. The land between the trees should be well cultivated for the first three or four years, with light crops, not on that exhaustive system which we every day see practised in this Colony; but by adding to the soil in the shape of manure as much as is extracted from it by the crop, and no crop should approach the trees closer than the diameter of its head, and the area thus left should have an annual mulching of dung or litter. At the end of four years the trees should be left in sole possession of the land, which may be sown down to permanent pasture grasses, Dutch and Alsike clover, and grazed by sheep, under no circumstances should timothy be sown, now that penny wise and pound foolish system of taking crops of hay off the land be adopted; by a liberal system of culture, the orchardist will be rewarded by crops of fruit of the best quality that can be grown on this coast.

The following is a list of sorts of the best and hardest kinds:—Early Harvest, Early Strawberry, Red Astrachan, American Summer Pearmain, Maidens Blush, Baldwin, Yellow Belle-fleur, Gravenstein, Fall Pippin Hawthornden, Coe's Golden Drop, Rhode Island Greening, Swaar, Newtown Pippin, Melon Apple, Rannette du Canada, Ribstone Pippin, Dutchess of Oldenburgh, Pine Apple Russet, Kerwick Codlin, Calville Blancher, Dutch Mignonne, King of the Pippins, Ransville Van Mons, Baxters Pearmain, Roxbury Russet, Sturmer Pippin, Tower of Gramma, Norfolk Beauty.

P. B. The remarks that have been used with reference to the apple, apply with equal force to the pear. **VICTORIA NURSERY, Fort street, Victoria, Aug. 26th, 1868.**

Defective Sidewalks.

EDITOR COLONIST:—Permit me through the columns of your paper to call the attention of the city fathers to the very dangerous state of the sidewalk on View street, immediately opposite the St George Hotel; not only are some of the planks loose but two or three are gone altogether, making it very dangerous for pedestrians after nightfall. While I am on this subject allow me to ask you how it is that the junction of the Municipal Council in reference to the crossing on Johnson street at Douglas street has not been attended too.

POLICE COURT.—James Hamilton appeared before the court yesterday, charged with stealing three bottles of soda-water valued at \$3 50, together with some other little things. Remanded until Monday next.

CONVENTION.—At a meeting of the residents of Metchoin held on Wednesday last, Mr Falton was unanimously elected to represent that district at the forthcoming Yale Convention.

MR. B. HOLLADAY.—This gentleman arrived at Portland by the steamer Oriflamme, on the 4th inst. We noticed some Victorian on their way home.