

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND. TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1866.

NO 28.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

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VICTORIA, V. I.

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BIG BEND.

By our British Columbian telegrams we learn that a number of miners have left Big Bend for Cariboo. The latest despatch says by way of explanation that no mining can be done on the Columbia for two months yet. Glancing superficially at the news which has been recently arriving from the new mineral region, one is naturally inclined to take a gloomy view of the prospect, and it is astonishing what absurdities this imperfect contemplation gives rise to. Our population is, generally speaking, so easily elated and so easily depressed that a telegram recounting the good fortune or disaster of half a dozen miners will raise or lower the hopes of the community beyond calculation. It is a mischievous propensity to be too sensitive. The inhabitants of a mining country, or people who are depending solely on such fleeting resources as the gold fields, must be more philosophical, and view matters not as they are exaggerated by the feverish imagination but as they present themselves to the calm and dispassionate mind. Any one who takes the trouble to examine all the facts which surround us about Big Bend must come to the conclusion that a large and paying gold field exists along that portion of the Columbia river. He knows that the yield of gold during last autumn was unprecedentedly large to the hand—that every one who labored in the mines went back to them—and that the diggings as a general rule were inexpensive to work. On Cariboo Creek, it is true, the sinking was not what might be termed shallow—holes having been sunk thirty-five feet without touching the bed-rock—but we had the testimony of men who worked on some of the other creeks, to the effect that the diggings as a whole are shallow. Late news, and indeed the letter from our own correspondent, asserts that the sinking is not so shallow, as was reported, on French and McColloch creeks—that parties had got down thirty feet on the latter creek without reaching the bed-rock, and that holes had been sunk on French creek to the depth of fifteen feet with the same result. Both accounts may be, and no doubt are, perfectly correct. Any one who knows anything of mining knows that there is often shallow and deep sinking in the same creek, and when we consider how large a stream French creek is—our special correspondent went up several miles and found no perceptible difference in its size—we can easily understand the circumstance of the bed-rock being reached at one place in fifteen feet, and at another place in forty. But supposing, for the sake of argument, the sinking as a general rule to be deep, the short telegrams about men leaving for Cariboo are inexplicable. It is simply preposterous to fancy that persons can prospect a newly discovered mining region in a couple of weeks. Up to the 23d of April none of the new-comers had reached the bed-rock on French Creek—everything, so far as the present season is concerned, was a mystery, and yet in a fortnight after this time we hear of men leaving the place disheartened. If any one in Victoria gets disheartened likewise at hearing the tales of such pitiful prospectors, they are easily terrified. If a number of men, incapable of testing the mines, either through want of means, want of experience, or want of pluck, leave diggings, that have had the celebrity of Big Bend, in a couple of weeks, how can such a circumstance in any possible way affect the real character of the mines? If all the men at Big Bend were to leave to-morrow, the proof against its auriferous character would still be wanting; for the very simple reason that the diggings would have had no test. We cannot, under ordinary circumstances, expect any substantial evidence pro or con, for the next month;

and even then the time will be too short to admit of a very decided opinion. Nothing has so far occurred to shake our belief, or the belief of any one who has given the subject a moment's consideration, in the richness and extent of the Big Bend country. We have the same hopes now we had when the experience of those who worked on the mines last summer was brought down to us, and we cannot in the nature of things give up hopes so well grounded, because a few persons, who never struck a pick in the ground, have, childlike, turned their backs on the country they went up with courageous intentions to prospect. It will require the whole season to give anything like a trial to Big Bend; in the meantime it is worse than folly to pay the slightest attention to the movements of unskilled miners, who expected no doubt to pluck the nuggets from the trees and shrubbery that fringe the banks of the Columbia river. Had the same ear been given to the ridiculous stories that were first circulated about Cariboo, we should not have had to day a single person on Williams Creek; nor would we have had the by no means insignificant sum of \$170,000—the amount shipped by the California—to send away as the earnings of a few claims during the winter months. The most lucrative gold fields in both California and Australia would have been lost to the commerce of the world, had the peculiarities of holiday miners been listened to. What developed these countries, and what made the name of Cariboo celebrated wherever a newspaper is read, was the unflinching determination of the hardy and vigorous miners—men who were not disheartened because they had to sink a few feet below the surface, and who were not frightened because they had little more water occasionally than they knew what to do with. It is only this class that will make anything out of Big Bend, and they will do it. They have gone to the diggings to give them a trial, and they will not return with their fingers in their mouths because they have seen a little snow. We are quite content to await their verdict, knowing as we do the truthfulness of the accounts brought down in November last. The season may be a little late, and some difficulties not anticipated may present themselves, but that Big Bend will turn out anything but a rich mining region, affording plenty of scope to the industrious and persistent miner, and raising the mineral reputation of British Columbia along the coast and throughout the globe, is what we cannot, with so many facts before our eyes, believe.

The principle features in which this bill differs from the old one is in respect to the amount reserved, which the mover proposed should be reduced from \$2,500 to \$2,000, and in respect to registration and declarations of solvency being made prior to such registration.

After some discussion the Committee rose and reported progress, and the Council adjourned until Tuesday next at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, May 18th.

Speaker took his seat at 3:20. Present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Trimble, McClure, Ash, Young, Powell.

NEW MEMBER.

Captain Stamp, member elect for Esquimalt Town, was introduced by Mr. Young, and having taken the oaths, was directed to a seat at the table on the right hand side of the Speaker.

LIQUOR LICENSE AMENDMENT BILL.

Communication from the Legislative Council sending down this bill with amendments, received and read.

RECIPROcity.

The following message was received from His Excellency the Governor:

VANCOUVER ISLAND.
Government House, Victoria 14th May, 1866.

To the Honorable the Speaker and the members of the Legislative Assembly.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Assembly a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reply to the resolution of the Assembly passed on the 31st January, 1866, relative to reciprocity with the United States of America.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor.

MR. CARDWELL'S REPLY.

Downing Street,
10th March, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 2 of the 9th January, enclosing a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island praying that the colony may be allowed to share in the benefits of any commercial treaty concluded with the United States in favor of the British North American Provinces.

I have to request you to inform the Assembly that the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States has been brought to an end, and that no other treaty is at the present time in course of negotiation, but that this resolution will be borne in mind in case the subject should be revived.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL,
Colonial Secretary.

COAL REPORTS.

A message was received and read from His Excellency the Governor transmitting a copy of "Reports on Coal" published by the authority of the Imperial Government.

DISTRICT COURTS BILL.

Some discussion arose on the amendments to this bill recommended by the Committee of the House that conferred with the Legislative Council on the subject. Messrs. DeCosmos and Trimble were opposed to the vesting of too much discretionary power in the Chief Justice in prohibiting persons from appearing in Inferior Courts.

SPRING RIDGE WATER WORKS BILL.

House in Committee on this bill, Dr. Trimble in the chair.

After making several amendments in the body of the bill as well as in the schedule, the Committee rose and the bill was reported.

GOVERNMENT INDEBTEDNESS.

Dr. Dickson gave notice of motion to request His Excellency to furnish the House with information as to the amount to due the bank, the rate of interest, and the manner in which such loans had been negotiated.

The House then adjourned till Monday at 1 p.m.

VACANCIES IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

A vacancy has been caused in the representation of Wigan by the resignation of Major General Lindsay, the Conservative member, his military duties in Canada, where he is at present in command, rendering it impossible that he can discharge his duty to his constituents. Mr. Eckersley, a banker, has been nominated by the Conservatives, while the Liberals have decided to support Mr. Lancaster, the principal proprietor in the Wigan Coal and Iron Company. A vacancy has also occurred in the representation of Houghton, through the death, after a brief illness of four days, of Mr. F. Goldsmid, the only brother of Sir F. H. Goldsmid, M. P. for Reading. It is said that Mr. Julian Goldsmid will offer himself as a candidate.

THE JEWS IN PERSIA.

In consequence of the representations of the British Minister in Persia, the Shah has addressed an autograph letter to the Sipehsalar, in which he signifies to his Prime Minister that it has come to his knowledge that his Jewish subjects suffer from oppression, and that being contrary to his wishes, the Sipehsalar is strictly enjoined to see that the Jews are henceforward treated with justice and kindness.

DRINKING DISEASED MILK.

A strange incident in connection with the cattle plague took place at the house of a Staffordshire farmer. A cow which had been attacked with the prevailing plague apparently recovered, and the first milk which it gave was brought to the farmer's wife, who tasted it, and immediately experienced all the sensations of poisoning. Her illness lasted some days.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, May 17.

Council met at 3:15; present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, D. Fraser.

MESSAGE.

A message was received from His Excellency the Governor, forward copy of reports received from Her Majesty's secretaries of Embassy and Legislation, respecting Coal.

The message was received, and ordered to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Council.

LIQUOR LICENSE AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill was read the third time and passed. Council adjourned till Friday at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, May 18.

Council met at 2:20 p.m. Present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary (presiding); Attorney General, Treasurer, Donald Fraser, R. Finlayson.

HOMESTEAD BILL.

Council went into committee on this bill, the Hon. Treasurer in the chair.

Hon. Donald Fraser presented and read the following petition from the Chamber of Commerce:

To the Hon. the President and Members of the Legislative Council.

The humble petition of the Chamber of Commerce of Victoria, V.I., respectfully sheweth:

That it is the opinion of your petitioners that the passage of a properly devised Homestead Law, wherein the value of the property exempted from seizure would be limited to a moderate amount, say not exceeding the value of \$2500, would be beneficial to the colony, tending, as they believe it would, to attract population to the country and retain it while here.

Your petitioners, therefore, pray that your honorable body may be pleased to pass a Homestead Law, so framed that whilst protecting the interests of families, for which it is intended, it would at the same time guard the public against fraud.

(Signed) JAMES LOWE,
President,
A. F. MAIN,
Secretary.

Victoria, V.I., 8th March, 1866.

The Hon. Donald Fraser introduced a series of amendments, constituting a new bill, which he had prepared with the assistance of the Hon. Attorney General. He said the Assembly's bill was a copy of a California bill that had been amended several times.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary said as these amendments constituted in point of fact a separate bill, it would have to pass through the several stages, whereas the other bill had been read a second time and committed.

It was agreed that the amendment should be taken up as a new bill in order to consider it, and clause I. of the original bill was substituted by the first clause of the new bill.

EUROPEAN NEWS SUMMARY.

Mr. Tom Hobler, the English tenor, of whom much has been expected, will shortly make his appearance at the Royal Italian Opera in "I Puritani."

The Crown Prince of Denmark will, it is said, put off his proposed visit to the King of Greece, until after the marriage of the Princess Dagmar to the Czarowitz.

The hundredth representation of the "Africaine" took place on the 9th, at Paris. The bust of Meyerbeer was on this occasion crowned with laurels, and a cantata sung in his honor.

A satisfactory arrangement has been arrived at by the French and Italian Governments respecting the Papal debt. Italy assumes one-half the debt as it stood in 1860, and the interest thereon.

The inhabitants of Cambridge are making considerable improvements in their central railway station and a new station is talked of the latter involving an expenditure of £200,000.

In a speech delivered at the other evening, Dr. Guibrie said that, in talking the streets of Edinburgh, he saw more drunken people in a day than he had seen in Italy in seven weeks.

The Bishop of Limerick is now lying at the University Club, Dublin, seriously ill. He was apparently quite well a few days ago, but he had had a rougher of the night.

Dr. Guibrie's wife, a widow, residing in Edinburgh, gave birth to four children—two boys and a girl. The girl died soon after she was born, but the boys are all alive and doing well.

There died, on the 11th, at Invergardon, a woman named Margaret Munro, or Queen, a native of the parish of Kilmuir.

The Duke of Hamilton came on the 12th, on which occasion there were general rejoicings over the extensive territory of which he is the proprietor.

A society has been formed in Paris for the purpose of executing a totally new and complete translation of the Holy Scriptures. In order to insure impartiality, the task will be confided to learned men of the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religions.

Paris is at present well supplied with fruit and vegetables from Algeria. Green peas, of the present year's growth, are plenty in all eating-houses. Strawberries are selling in the central market at from 8s. to 10s. 15s.; the pot; sparagous from 8s. to 10s. 15s.; to 21s.; the bundle; green kidney beans at from 3s. to 12s. the pound weight; artichokes from 6s. to 10s. the hundred; cauliflower from 6s. to 10s. the dozen; green peas from 6d. to 1s. the pound weight. Turnips, so dear two months since, have fallen to 7s. to the pound weight. These, of course, are the wholesale prices.

Some benevolent persons in Dublin have imitated the example so worthily set by Glasgow, by establishing a workman's dining-hall, where a comfortable meal of wholesome food can be procured by the artisan at a moderate price. It is situated at the North Wall, and is of such dimensions that from 1,500 to 2,000 persons can be accommodated during the day. A novel feature in the arrangements is that the attendants are ladies who give their services from a praiseworthy desire to help the institution until it becomes self-supporting.

There is to be a gigantic aquarium among the wonders of the Universal Exhibition. The front alone is to measure 100 feet; every sort of fish is to be collected therein for the amusement of the public, and even peculiar habits and customs in grottoes and flour of the building, and filled with seawater.

In the last skirmish which took place between the papal brigades and the troops of the latter, being in ambush, inflicted a loss of two killed upon the former. One of the individuals thus shot was found to be a strapping peasant woman of about 30, armed and dressed like the male members of the band. She was subsequently recognized to be the wife of the chief, Cedrone, who is now inconsolable for his loss.

The Dramatic College have awarded to Mr. A. R. Slous, a member of the Stock Exchange, the late Mr. T. P. Cooke's prize of £100 for the best national drama. The title of Mr. Slous' drama is "True to the Core," and it is understood that it will soon be produced at one of the West End theatres.

At a court concert held the other evening at the Tuileries, the Emperor walked over to M. Allart to compliment him on his brilliant performance, and taking up the artist's violin, to the astonishment both of M. Allart and the persons near, began to finger the instrument with the touch of a master.

Fashion in Paris is becoming still more extravagant. The eccentricities of ladies of high life in matters of dress, are really beyond all description. Enough has already been said on this subject, but, with all you have heard, you will not be surprised to hear that ladies, not contented with wearing crinolines, the springs of which are made of pure gold and silver, have now taken a fancy to boots with heels plated with the same precious metals. These boots may actually be seen in the shop windows of some of our fashionable shoemakers.

Is it True?—The *Journal des Villes et Campagnes* states that an ancient Jewish house has been excavated in Syria, and, by its structure and interior arrangement, would seem to belong to the second century B.C. It is further said that seven books were found in it, viz., the Pentateuch, the Psalms, and a volume of Hebrew poems hitherto unknown. The treasure is supposed to be on its way to our Asiatic Society—*Eng. paper.*

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CO.

Meeting at Liverpool.

Yesterday, at noon, a well-attended meeting of merchants and others interested in the Atlantic telegraph was held at Liverpool for the purpose of hearing explanations from Mr. Cyrus Field, Captain Anderson, Mr. Canning, and Mr. Varley, as to the present position and prospects of the undertaking.

Mr. Field was voted to the chair, and he explained the circumstances under which the enterprise had been handed over by the Atlantic Telegraph Company to the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, which is now subscribing £600,000 for the purpose of laying the new cable and completing the old one. He explained that this course was imperative to insure the carrying out of the project during the ensuing summer, in consequence of the decision of the Attorney-General that the Atlantic Telegraph Company had no power to issue 12 per cent preference shares. The new company would be answerable for the successful laying of the cable, and would then have a claim to a certain amount of the profits of the undertaking. If any shareholder thought this unjust, of course he was welcome to take as many shares as he liked on the new company. Mr. Canning then gave a short account of the experiences gained, and the improvements effected, in the machinery. He had not the slightest fear, but that in their next effort they would be quite successful, not only in laying the new line, but in recovering and completing the one partially laid last summer. Captain Anderson said they were prepared to anticipate even worse difficulties than they yet met, and no difficulty had been met which they were not fully prepared to meet and overcome. He had the greatest confidence in the Great Eastern. Mr. Varley, the electrician, entered more fully into the details of the project, and showed the advantages which the new cable would possess over the old one, in having a greater breaking strain. He also showed that with improved apparatus the recovery of the old cable and its completion would be a work of very little difficulty, and of almost certain success. As to the earnings he showed that the Persian Gulf cable earned nearly £100,000 a year, and that with bad management and great delays; with the Atlantic cable, and the improved instruments for the transmission of messages, which were extremely sensitive and delicate, he believed it would be no exaggeration to say that at the proposed rate of charges it would be quite able to remit messages at a speed which would earn a million pounds per annum. In the course of his remarks, he explained the manner in which the splicing or joining of the cables are effected. So delicate, said he, were the tests employed that it was often found that the state of an operator's nerves or skin seriously affected the work; and it had often happened that when a man had been living freely the previous day his work in splicing failed to pass the test, and was rejected. In answer to questions, Mr. Canning and Mr. Varley explained that the state of the cable at the bottom of the Atlantic up to the point where it parted was as perfect now as the day it was laid. Mr. Varley also stated that the first cable laid was destroyed by the immense power required, owing to the imperfect instruments and probable defective insulation to remit words at a rapid rate. As high a power as 5,000 cells to one battery had been then employed; but with the last cable an order had been made that no greater power than 20 cells should be used, and it was quite possible to obtain with the improved instruments a rate of five or six words a minute, with a power of only a single cell. A gentleman remarked that there was a letter in *The Times*, signed by an engineer, and apparently a man of some note, but he could not recollect his name, who had declared that it was a mechanical impossibility to raise the sunken cable, because of its great weight. He wished to know if the company had thought it worth while to answer that letter. Mr. Field remarked that if the company were to answer all the letters addressed to them, they would soon have to employ the whole of their capital in the task. They had already given, that day, an answer. Captain Anderson said he had not answered all the letters he had received, because he could not do so. One writer, a lady, proposed to raise the cable with a magnet. There were lots of people who wrote to say they would raise the cable, but they must have £10,000 for doing it; £10,000 seemed a favorite sum with such people. Mr. Field said that one gentleman called upon him and proposed to sink a hollow tube to the bottom of the sea, and then go down in it, and look for the cable. He plagued him considerably, until one morning he (Mr. Field) told him that he had decided that the thing could be done, and he (the inventor) should have the appointment to go down and look for it. He hadn't seen him since. Captain Anderson said it was only fair to admit that many of the letters contained very sensible suggestions. The proceedings then concluded, with a vote of thanks to the speakers.—*Times, 15th.*

DEATH OF A FRENCH JUDGE FROM HYDROPHOBIA.

A few days since M. Blondel, one of the Judges of the Tribunal of Arbois, France, died from hydrophobia. The unfortunate gentleman had been bitten two years ago by one of his dogs while out shooting.

INDIAN ROW AT SWINOMISH.

The Indians stationed at Swinomish, in Washington Territory, have had a disturbance among themselves. The war-whoop was sounded, and about 150 Indians flew to arms. One of their number was shot.

A MOVEMENT IS ON FOOT AMONG THE PRESBYTERIANS OF THE NORTH OF IRELAND FOR INCREASING THE STIPEND OF THEIR MINISTERS, AND A CONFERENCE WILL IMMEDIATELY BE HELD IN BELFAST ON THE SUBJECT.

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1866. 218

LETTER I.

To the Electors of the City of Victoria.

GENTLEMEN,—There are occasions when it becomes the duty of the representative to communicate with his constituents on matters of public moment. One of those occasions, in my humble opinion, has occurred through the Legislative Council negating the money bills prepared by the Assembly to balance the expenditure for the current year; and, also, through the aspersions cast on the financial policy of the Assembly, and the erroneous financial statements made by members of the Council. My purpose, therefore, in addressing this lengthy letter to you is to vindicate the financial policy of the Assembly, refute the aspersions cast upon it, expose the erroneous financial statements of members of the Legislative Council, and place the naked facts in your possession, in order that you may correctly judge of the merits of the financial policy inaugurated by the Assembly and rejected by the Council.

In order that you may comprehend the question at issue, I shall review the respective financial schemes of the Executive and Assembly, presenting the facts relating thereto as nearly as possible in their natural order.

1.—On December 22 last His Excellency the Governor sent to the Assembly the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1866, accompanied by a message. The Revenue was as follows:

EXECUTIVE ESTIMATES OF REVENUE FOR 1866.	
Real Estate Tax.....	\$50,000
Salary Tax.....	2,500
Port and Harbor Dues.....	35,300
Liquor Licenses.....	28,091
Trading Licenses.....	38,000
Postage.....	4,400
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court.....	15,000
Fees of Office.....	3,500
Sale of Government Property.....	300
Reimbursements.....	28,285
Miscellaneous.....	1,000
Total.....	\$206,376

I may add in explanation of the above that in an accompanying estimate called "Reimbursements," under the head of "Reimbursements" are the following details:

REIMBURSEMENTS.	
Towing Vessels.....	\$ 3,800
From British Columbia—Moiety of Lighthouse expenditure.....	3,040
Do. do. for 1864-65.....	6,320
Do. Moiety due for carrying mails between San Francisco and Vancouver Island since 1863.....	15,125
Total.....	\$28,285

It will be seen that \$3,800 is for towing vessels and by deducting that sum from the aggregate amount under the head of "Reimbursements," viz., \$28,285, the remainder will be \$24,485, or the amount of revenue due from British Columbia.

The Expenditure that was required by the Executive for 1866 was as follows:—

EXECUTIVE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, 1866.	
Expenditure for 1866, as submitted to Assembly in the Estimates on December 22, 1865.....	\$193,895
Balance due Bank, mentioned in the Governor's message accompanying Estimates, dated Dec. 20th.....	52,465
Total Expenditure, 1866.....	\$246,360

RECAPITULATION.
Total Expenditure for 1866, required by the Executive.....\$246,360
Total Revenue for 1866, as estimated by Executive.....206,376

Total actual and estimated Deficit* in Revenue for 1866, as deduced from the Governor's Message and Estimates.....\$39,984

* In the Governor's Message a surplus of \$12,431 over expenditure is mentioned; but that is a mis-statement which I shall explain hereafter.

Liquidate it, and there could be no doubt about it. In answer to my inquiries respecting the details of the claim, he said that the only item about which there could be the least probability of a demur to the payment was the "Moiety of Lighthouse Expenditure, 1864 and 1865," \$6,320, and that was just and proper, and he believed it would be paid.

With respect to the second point, I was informed that there was usually collected in every year about \$50,000 in taxes derived from Real Estate, and that there was always about the same amount of Real Estate Taxes in arrears at the end of each year. He promised to get the exact amount of the Arrears from the Treasurer and supply me with a statement. On application, subsequently, for the statement, he informed me that it could not be had till the Treasurer's books were balanced or audited. The Committee of Ways and Means were consequently left without the exact information that they required on this head; and in providing revenue voted on their general knowledge of the amount of arrears, and the assurance of the Colonial Secretary, and even then the Committee estimated the arrears, for their present purpose, at no higher amount than \$10,000, though confident that it could not be less than \$30,000 or \$40,000. The desire was to create an excess of Revenue over Expenditure, instead of a deficit.

I have been thus particular about these two sources of revenue as they have both been called in question; and also to prove that the Assembly acted intelligently on the subject. Before leaving the question of arrears of real estate taxes, I may remark that the Assembly ordered the Treasurer to make a return of the arrears to December 31, 1865. He replied that he was prohibited by his instructions from the Executive; and the House did not pursue the matter further. But, strange to say, the very day on which the Ways and Means bills were communicated to the Legislative Council, the Treasurer, in reply to a motion of the Hon. D. Fraser, stated that the aggregate of arrears of Real Estate Tax due under all the assessments were \$34,000. [Vide Chronicle report, March 28th.] Thus we have the authority of the Treasurer that there was \$24,000 more revenue due in arrears than the Committee of Ways and Means, in their calculation, had estimated. The true and actual revenue for 1866 provided by the Assembly will, therefore, appear in the following statement:

Total amount of Revenue to meet Expenditure of 1866, provided by Assembly, as in last statement.....	\$272,476
Total amount of arrears of Real Estate Taxes, not accounted for in the late statement [Vide Treasurer's statement, Chronicle, March 28th].....	24,000
Total Revenue for 1866, provided by Assembly.....	\$296,476

Another point deserving attention is the £50,000 Loan Bill. This bill proposed to borrow, on the credit of the General Revenue, £50,000 in England or elsewhere, on bonds redeemable in twenty years, drawing interest at 6 per cent per annum, with a Sinking Fund at 5 per cent per annum. Though a matter of revenue, it does not appear in either of the two last statements. For it was not expected that the proceeds would be brought to account this year, either by the Agents General for Crown Colonies in England, or the Treasurer, owing to the somewhat dilatory movements of the local Government or the accidental state of the money market elsewhere or both. The \$100,000 Loan was made chargeable on the General Revenue, subject to the £40,000 Loan contracted in 1863; and the £50,000 Loan Bill was regarded, so far as the present year was concerned, as merely an additional collateral security to the local parties who might advance the balance of the \$100,000. For it must be noted that the entire amount to be borrowed over and above what had been advanced in over-drafts by the Bank without the sanction of a Statute was only \$45,000, and that early in 1867, at farthest, the Colonial Government would realise enough from the sale of 20-year bonds to pay off the Temporary Loan; and when the remainder of the Bonds were sold the proceeds could be appropriated for the purposes designed. Both Loans met with the almost unanimous concurrence of the Assembly, as they were designed for objects which I shall hereafter explain.

I may, in concluding this branch of the subject, remark that with the exception of the three last sources of revenue—the Temporary Loan and the Hay and Lumber Taxes—all the others were existing sources of revenue, estimated by the Executive as correct, and accepted as such by the Assembly after inquiry.

The next department of the subject to which I shall draw attention is the Supplies for 1866; and in order that you may contrast the extent of the demand of the Executive for Supplies with what the Assembly have voted, I refer you to the three next statements. They have been prepared with a good deal of care, and may be relied on as containing very few and trifling inaccuracies, if any. They show the Supplies asked for by the Executive, the amount voted, the reductions made, and the Estimates increased or originated by the Assembly, and are as follows:

ESTIMATES—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.			
	Executive Estimates.	Assembly Total.	Estimated by Assembly.
Governor.....	\$2200	\$500	\$1700
Legis. Council.....	600	600	
Legis. Assen. Secy.....	2550	2250	300
Col. Secretary.....	3250	1100	2150
Treasurer.....	6835	1700	5135
Auditor.....	1200	1200	
Surveyor.....	1187	850	1200
*Harbormaster.....	1900	1900	3216
Post Offices.....	2605	1865	760
Registrar Gen.....	2525	2525	
Lighthouse Gen.....	3478	2978	2625
Judicial.....	21285	14625	7200
Police.....	18962	6750	8242
Goals.....	6505	6505	
Education.....	10440	12750	
Volunteers.....	1600	1250	250
Total.....	\$93,375	\$62,416	\$30,968

SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.			
	Executive Estimates.	Assembly Total.	Estimated by Assembly.
Penitentiary.....	\$2425	\$2425	
Legislative Assembly.....	1600	500	\$1100
Col. Secretary.....	5200	1650	3550

Assessor.....	1500	1500
Surveyor Gen.....	6225	3700
Harbormaster.....	1750	900
Postmaster.....	600	250
Administration of Justice.....	3450	1100
Education.....	4580	3880
Charitable Alms.....	2250	8000
Police.....	2300	1400
Goals.....	6245	4725
Rent.....	1041	841
Transport.....	1600	650
Conveyance of Mails.....	17200	31300
Works & Buildings.....	3350	150
Roads, Streets, and Bridges.....	4950	4550
Lighthouses.....	2600	2850
Miscellaneous services.....	3550	6975
Interest and Sinking Fund.....	21400	21400
Drawbacks & Refunds.....	2000	2000
Lighting.....	1000	1000
Indians.....	1000	500
Total.....	\$100,519	\$139,647

1. RECAPITULATION—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS. Total Estimates Civil Establishments, fixed and temporary and contingencies.....\$93,375 17
Total Estimates voted by Assembly under this head.....62,416 42
Total reductions of Estimates made by Assembly under this head.....30,958 75
Total increase of Estimates by Assembly under this head.....2,310 00

2. RECAPITULATION—SERVICES, EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS. Total amount Estimates asked for Services exclusive of Establishments.....\$100,519 90
Total amount voted by Assembly under this head.....139,647 40
Total amount of reductions made by Assembly under this head.....38,773 00
Total amount of increase of Estimates by Assembly either by increasing Executive Estimates or originating new Estimates under this head.....73,350 50

3. RECAPITULATION—BOTH HEADS. Total amount of Estimates for 1866 required by Executive under both heads.....\$193,895 07
Total amount of Estimates for 1866 voted by Assembly under both heads.....202,063 82
Total amount of reduction of Estimates by Assembly under both heads.....64,641 75
Total amount of increase of Estimates by Assembly under both heads.....75,660 00
Total amount voted in excess of total amount of Executive Estimates for 1866.....8,168 75
The object of the Assembly in reducing the Estimates is obvious. Whether the reductions have been well and wisely made, it is for you in common with other constituencies to determine. The country was asked to pay \$193,895 for Establishments and services mainly non-productive in the generally accepted sense of that term; the Assembly voted for these purposes \$129,264; and the retrenchment is \$64,631. As the details have been published, it is unnecessary for me to enlarge on the subject here.

The Assembly having reduced or struck estimates out deemed it expedient to exercise their undoubted prerogative to increase some estimates, and originate a few others both of a reproductive character, and at the same time reduce taxation. It appeared imprudent to say the least, in the present circumstances of the country, to merely vote money to support a cumbersome and expensive government, and do nothing to promote immigration, or open up the country to settlement.

Such objects in view, the Supplies for 1866 were voted. The following statement will show pretty accurately for what purposes estimates were increased or originated:—

ESTIMATES INCREASED OR ORIGINATED BY ASSEMBLY.	
EDUCATION—Male Teacher, Victoria, salary increased.....	\$280
Female do.....	280
Male do Cedar Hill do.....	250
New school, Salt Spring Island.....	500
Do do Sooke.....	500
Do do Metochosin.....	500
Hospital, Victoria.....	6,000
Mails—Everywhere.....	21,000
Roads, &c.—Every District.....	43,350
Lighthouses, Lifeboat—Race Point.....	250
Flour Mill—Bonny for the first.....	1,250
Fire Department—Victoria.....	1,500
Total.....	\$75,660

Very few persons, in my humble opinion, will be found in the colony who will disapprove of the items in the above statement. The great majority in town and country will, I believe, concur with the Assembly. It may be well, therefore, to take a glance at the following statement in order to learn to what amount the estimates would have reached, by adding the above necessary items of expenditure to the Bank debt and supplies required, had it not been for the retrenchment:

Total Estimates 1866, required by Executive.....	\$ 193,895
Total Bank debt.....	52,465
Do amount Estimates increased, &c., by Assembly as above.....	75,660
Total Expenditure 1866—required by Executive.....	\$ 322,020

For the purposes of this inquiry, I would ask you to contrast the above with the total estimates voted by the Assembly, and say which is the best of the two; the financial policy of the Executive or that inaugurated in Committee of Ways and Means? Here is a statement showing the total estimates voted by Assembly:—

Total reduction of expenditure, 1866, as explained in last two statements.....	\$ 67,462
As it was out of the General Revenue—your money in common with the rest of the colony—that the Assembly voted supplies, I need not remind you that it is part of your public duty as citizens and taxpayers to investigate thoroughly the way in which your finances have been managed. It will be well, therefore, to learn what would have been the expenditure for 1866, after the Assembly had made their reductions, assuming that the estimates had not been increased. Reference to the following statement will supply that information:	
Total amount Estimates sent to Assembly.....	\$ 193,895
Bank debt.....	52,465
Total reductions made in Estimates by Assembly.....	64,631
Total expenditure, 1866.....	\$181,729

The last statement shows conclusively that through the scheme of retrenchment adopted by the Assembly the expenditure for 1866 and the Bank debt could have been paid out of the Executive Estimates of expenditure, \$193,895, and a surplus left in the Treasury of \$12,266; or that the Executive estimate of revenue for 1866, \$206,376, would have paid the expenditure of the current year and the Bank debt and left a balance of \$24,647.

No one will dispute but that it was the paramount duty of the Assembly to proportion taxation to the capacity of the people to pay. No one will deny that it was a primary duty of the Committee of Ways and Means, under the present circumstances of the country, to reduce the taxation of the current year to its lowest limit, consistent with providing sufficient revenue to meet the necessary expenditure. Particular attention was, therefore, given to the various sources of revenue. It was found in the estimates that there were two chief sources: 1.—Revenue due in previous years but not collected. 2.—Revenue to be raised from real and personal property or professions during the current year. Under the first head were arrears of real estate taxes \$34,000; sales of Government property \$300; reimbursements (B.U.) \$24,485; total \$58,785. Under the second head there were: Real Estate Tax \$50,000; Salary Tax \$2,500; Harbor dues \$35,300; Liquor Licenses \$28,091; Trading Licenses \$38,000; Postage \$4,400; Fines, fees, &c., of Courts \$15,000; Office fees \$3,500; Miscellaneous \$1,000; Towing vessels \$3,800; total \$181,591. The Committee of Ways and Means having in view the reduction of taxation to the lowest limit, deemed it expedient in anticipation of union of the colonies and local municipal institutions to strike off the Real Estate and the Salary Taxes, \$52,500, from the general revenue, and also with the design of stimulating local industry, to create two new taxes on imported hay and lumber estimated at \$9,000. The following statement will, therefore, show the respective amounts of taxes proposed to be levied by the Executive and Assembly the present year:

Total amount taxes proposed by Executive to be levied in 1866.....	\$ 181,591
Total amount taxes proposed by Assembly to be levied in 1866.....	138,091

Excess of Executive taxation to be levied in 1866 over Assembly scheme \$43,500
From this statement it will appear that the Executive designed to levy nearly 30 per cent more taxation in 1866 than the Assembly. It will be for you to determine which scheme was best adapted to your purposes.

There is another point deserving of your notice. It is the discrepancy between the Executive estimate of revenue for 1866 and the actual amount. For instance—Revenue due, \$58,785; revenue to be levied in 1866, \$181,591; total \$240,376. Deduct total revenue as in estimates, \$206,376, from the last total, and there will be a balance of \$34,000—a discrepancy to that extent between the facts and the Executive scheme recently endorsed by the Legislative Council.

But this is not all of the Ways and Means scheme of the Executive. In His Excellency's Message of Dec. 20, he recommended the Assembly to vote \$193,895 in supplies, and says there will be a surplus of revenue of \$12,481. He then adds that there is a sum due the Bank, about \$40,000 of which is desirable to meet by a loan extending over several years; or to quote the Message: "This outlay (\$40,000) in my opinion, should not be wholly delayed out of the revenue of the Estimates and does not make part of the \$193,895. In short, the Bank loan to that amount was to stand against the colony.

The suggestion to pay for the Residence by extending the payment over several years met with the almost unanimous concurrence of the Assembly; and as the immediate construction of other public works was deemed essential to the progress of the colony, a temporary loan of \$100,000 was proposed and passed for both objects. The way in which this loan was to be paid has been already explained. The way in which it was to be expended is explained in Schedule A to "The Temporary Loan Act 1866," sent to the Council, which is as follows:—

SCHEDULE A.	
Residence for His Excellency the Governor, not exceeding sum of \$50,000 00	
For schoolhouse at Nanaimo.....	1500 00
Making road from Cook's to Metochosin.....	300 00
Comox Road through settlement, and bridge at Green's Landing.....	1500 00
Construction of a bridge across Nanaimo Ravine.....	1000 00
Wagon road 12 feet wide between Col. Street and Sayward's Sawmill, Shawnigan, thence to Nanaimo.....	25000 00
Completion of the road to Sooke, Steam Sawmill, via the head of the harbor, including a bridge across Sooke River.....	3000 00
Making roads in Salt Spring Island.....	500 00
Saanich road, in Lake District.....	2500 00
Saanich road, from McDonald's to Peter Lind's.....	3000 00
Improvement of Metochosin road.....	3000 00
Burnside road.....	3000 00

Construction of road from Cedar District to Nanaimo.....	1500 00
Total.....	\$95,800 00

This \$95,800 in public works was to be met by a loan, extending over twenty years. In other words the colonists would have the benefit of those public works and pay for them within twenty years, and not tax the present inhabitants for the whole of what a future generation would inherit and use. Of this \$100,000 loan was to be paid out for a residence, because it was due the bank; and \$45,800 was to be expended on roads, &c. I may, without fear of much contradiction, assert that but very few men, whose judgment is of much practical value in building up a new country, will question the propriety of constructing roads, or the desirability of paying for them by loan. Men may carp about both roads and loans, but they usually have other, than their ostensible reasons for their opposition. At least such is my experience in this colony. Before leaving this head it may be observed that no part of the \$100,000 loan was to be expended to meet current expenses, but solely to create tangible, useful, and valuable assets, available now and in future years. In the Assembly's scheme, current expenditure was to be met by the receipts of 1866 derived from taxes and revenue due, and not by loans of a permanent character. For instance: Expenditure 1866, Temporary Loan.....\$100,000
Expenditure 1866, Public Works as in Schedule A.....95,800

Excess.....	\$ 4,200
Revenue 1866 exclusive of temporary loan of \$100,000.....	\$196,476
Expenditure, 1866, exclusive of public works in Schedule A.....	158,728

Total excess of Revenue 1866, exclusive of Loan, over expenditure for current expenses.....\$ 37,748
The two most important Committees of an Assembly—one of Supply, the other of Ways and Means—have quite different duties to perform. The business of the one is to run the country in debt as little as possible; the business of the other is to pay the debts off. One names the amount of expenditure for the year; the other provides revenue to meet it. In conducting the inquiry into the respective financial policies of the Executive and Assembly, it is expedient to learn what these two Committees have done. It will be seen in the following statement:—

Total General Revenue 1866, from all sources, provided by Ways and Means.....	\$296,476
Total Expenditure 1866, all establishments and services, voted in Supply.....	254,528
Total excess of Revenue over Expenditure, 1866.....	\$41,948

This statement demonstrates as fairly as figures can, that, instead of a deficit, the Assembly have provided a surplus of Revenue over and above the anticipated Expenditure for the current year. It may, however, be urged that there will be a decrease in the Revenue, owing to apparent causes, and that the excess above will be reduced in amount. Taking the Treasurer as authority, I assume that it will decrease 10 per cent. At that rate, on \$158,091, the amount of Revenue decrease in Revenue would be \$15,809. Deduct the latter sum from \$41,948 and there will still be an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of \$28,139—not a deficit, as some have asserted for their own purposes.

There is but another point to which I desire to direct your attention. It is neither the duty of the Ways and Means Committee, nor is it agreeable with the spirit of British institutions, to raise more revenue in any year by levying taxes than is required to balance the expenditure. Such a principle conjoined with the sole right of the Assembly to annually vote supplies, form the two best checks against misrule. By retaining, therefore, the Real Estate Tax and Salary Tax, assuming that the hay, lumber, and loan taxes were passed, the surplus revenue over expenditure would be largely increased. For instance, the total Revenue, as in the last statement, \$296,476; Real Estate Tax levied in 1866, \$50,000; Salary Tax, \$2,500; total \$52,500. Deduct Expenditure, \$254,528, from that and the surplus will be \$94,448. There would be this excess in the hands of an irresponsible government.

On the other hand, as the Council has thrown out the hay, lumber, and loan bills, and refused to repeal the Salary and Real Estate taxes, it is expedient to inquire whether there will be a surplus of Revenue over expenditure under such circumstances, and what will be the amount? It will appear as follows:—

Total Expenditure 1866, voted for civil establishments.....	\$24,416
Total Expenditure 1866, voted for exclusive of establishments and not including \$45,800 for roads, &c., to be paid by loan only.....	93,847
Total Revenue 1866 estimated by the Executive.....	\$156,263
Arrears Real Estate Tax.....	206,376
Total.....	\$362,639
Excess over Expenditure 1866.....	\$34,113

If the bank debt, \$52,465, be deducted from \$34,113 there will still be an excess of \$3,648, and the Government establishments will be kept up and the Governor's residence will be paid for; but there will be no public works to open up the country and promote settlement.

In conclusion, I may say that, if it be your desire and that of other constituencies to support American farmers, lumbermen, and artisans on American soil, in preference to British farmers, lumbermen, and artisans on our own soil, then the course of the Legislative Council, which is virtually the Executive Council, in refusing to repeal the Real Estate Tax, or pass the Road Loan and Hay and Lumber Bills ought to be upheld. If a different opinion be entertained respecting a policy that I regard as an unmix'd evil, there are suitable remedies, too obvious to detail.

As this letter is already much longer than ordinary newspaper letters, I shall have to defer any remarks reviewing the speeches of three prominent Legislative Councilors to a future occasion.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
A. DeCosmo.

From Comox—From a settler on Saturday by the Sir James clean the following items of in the above settlement. From places there will be from 250 land under cultivation this season had 30 acres of ground harrowed for grain, besides a root crops. All the other settlers to fifteen acres in grain. Some of the settlers have been considerable improvements on the One settler has crested a barn and another one 38 by 25; barns of smaller size have been and it is considered that the settlement are now ahead of any other in the colony in their farm residences. It is computed the send to the Victoria market three to four tons of fresh but the steamer continues to run market twice a month; the settlement is five bits. There about 100 tons of potatoes at which cannot be shipped as the charged by water to Victoria whereas American crafts bring across for \$2 50. It would of \$5 per ton to be levied on potatoes sufficiently to protect the Comox market from those of the other side. Pigs and poultry are very abundant in the settlement or Emily is bringing down up lbs. of pork, some of the hogs much as 350 lbs. Poultry is a market up there and cannot be weather during the last fortnight very fine and the crops look well and assistance to the settlers as far potatoes being the currency for labor and his pig was two, but better worth five than the former three. The settlers are still notwithstanding the appointments missioners and overseers. The a road is a matter of considerable and injury to the settlers. mals cause very little annoyance bruise occasionally pays his porter. Mr. Thompson discover these gentry carrying off one of cently and attacked the animal with a gun and shot. The above show that the Comox settlers are lazy thriftless lot as they were noted in the Legislative Council by Governor General.

OVERDUE LICENSES.—A number of licenses for arrears of quarterly called up in the Police Court yesterday appeared for eleven of the and made an urgent appeal to the Treasury for further time. Many parties were old residents, who thousands of dollars to the Colony but owing to the depressed state they had not been earning even pay servants' wages, and to compel Hotels and other establishments close up, would not only be a grievance to them, but a serious injury to the Colony. The Magistrate said he reluctant to issue summonses unless he was fairly satisfied that the parties were unable to pay the interest of the money, and thus lost the interest of the money. There was however an informal summons, as no notice had been produced the licenses, and the Court levy when there had been information of the mode of procedure; he should postpone the cases for three days, if he advised the defendants to pay should lessen the penalty, which otherwise would be inflicted. Mr. B. he would not press the objection, of formality, if the Treasurer would give further time. One of the parties had expended \$30,000 in the Colony had paid \$8000 into the Treasury had been in business. The Treasurer Act did not give him power the time, and moreover he had been spoken to by those who had been in due course, about the im of having been shown to be were continually in arrears. Such payments as could not pay for their were evidently not patronized sufficient to be a necessity, and should therefore be a nuisance. The Magistrate postponed the cases for three days.

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY met yesterday. The Speaker and Messrs. Tolmie, Dickson, McClure, Ash, Carswell, Dr. Ash, Chairman of the Committee on the Postal Bill, reported in favor of the bill with some amendments. Mr. C. B. Young reported to the result of the conference between the Houses on the District Courts Bill. The second reading of the Franchise Bill passed without a single objection. The whole, Mr. McClure in the chair Spring Ridge Bill, but after considerable passing some amendments the reported progress and the House adjourned Wednesday.

ON A CRUISE.—H.M.S. Scout left yesterday morning at 9 o'clock on a cruise as far as Burnside. She is expected back on Wednesday morning and the coast the Scout setting in ball practice.

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, May 22, 1866.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, May 15.

FROM COMOX.—From a settler who arrived on Saturday by the Sir James Douglas, we glean the following items of intelligence from the above settlement. From present appearances there will be from 250 to 300 acres of land under cultivation this season. One settler alone had 30 acres of ground ploughed and harrowed for grain, besides several acres of root crops. All the other settlers have from five to fifteen acres in grain and root crops. Some of the settlers have been making considerable improvements on their property. One settler has erected a barn 60 feet by 25 and another one 38 by 25; several other barns of smaller size have been constructed and it is considered that the settlers of Comox are now ahead of any other settlement in the colony in their farm premises and residences. It is computed that Comox will send to the Victoria market this season from three to four tons of fresh butter, provided the steamer continues to run to and from market twice a month; the price in the settlement is five bits. There are at present about 100 tons of potatoes at the settlement which cannot be shipped as the rate of freight charged by water to Victoria is \$7 per ton, whereas American crafts bring potatoes across for \$2 50. It would require a duty of \$5 per ton to be levied on potatoes to sufficiently protect the Comox farmers and enable them to compete with the farmers on the other side. Figs and poultry are becoming very abundant in the settlement. The schooner Emily is bringing down upwards of 1000 lbs. of pork, some of the hogs weighing as much as 350 lbs. Poultry is a drug in the market up there and cannot be sold. The weather during the last fortnight has been very fine and the crops look well. The Indians are quite peaceable and are of great assistance to the settlers as farm laborers, potatoes being the currency for payment. A buck charges three buckets for a day's labor and his squaw two, but the latter is better worth five than the former is worth three. The settlers are still without a road notwithstanding the appointment of Commissioners and overseers. The absence of a road is a matter of considerable inconvenience and injury to the settlers. Wild animals cause very little annoyance although bruin occasionally pays his respects to a porker. Mr. Thompson discovered one of these gentry carrying off one of his pigs recently and attacked the animal with a hand-spike. He succeeded in stunning the brute sufficiently to enable another man to fetch a gun and shoot it. The above facts will show that the Comox settlers are not such a lazy thrifless lot as they were lately designated in the Legislative Council by the Surveyor General.

OVERDUE LICENSES.—A number of summonses for arrears of quarterly licenses were called up in the Police Court yesterday. Mr. Bishop appeared for eleven of the defendants, and made an urgent appeal to the Court, and the Treasury for further time. Most of the parties were old residents, who had paid thousands of dollars to the Colonial Treasury, but owing to the depressed state of the times they had not been earning even sufficient to pay servants' wages, and to compel substantial Hotels and other establishments to close up, would not only be a grievous burden to them, but a serious injury to the Colony. The Magistrate said he had been reluctant to issue summonses until every leniency had been exhausted, and it would be unfair towards those who had paid promptly, and thus lost the interest of their money, to grant time to those who had neglected to pay. There was however an informality in the summonses, as no notice had been given to produce the licenses, and the Court could not levy when there had been informality in the mode of procedure; he should therefore postpone the cases for three days, meanwhile he advised the defendants to pay up, as he should then lessen the penalty, which he should otherwise have to inflict. Mr. Bishop said he would not press the objection, as to want of formality, if the Treasurer would consent to give further time. One of the parties sued had expended \$30,000 in the Colony, another had paid \$8000 into the Treasury since he had been in business. The Treasurer said the Act did not give him power to extend the time, and moreover he had been frequently spoken to by those who had paid their taxes in due course, about the impropriety of any leniency being shown to those who were continually in arrear. Such establishments as could not pay for their licenses were evidently not patronized sufficiently to be a necessity, and should therefore be closed as a nuisance. The Magistrate postponed the cases for three days.

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY met yesterday. Present—The Speaker and Messrs. DeCosmos, Tolmie, Dickson, McClure, Young, Ash, Caswell. Dr. Ash, Chairman of the Committee on the Postal bill, reported in favor of the bill with some amendments. Mr. C. B. Young reported to the House the result of the conference between the two Houses on the District Courts bill. The second reading of the Franchise amendments passed without a single observation and the House then went into Committee of the Whole. Mr. McClure in the chair, on the Spring Ridge bill, but after considering and passing some amendments the Committee reported progress and the House adjourned till Wednesday.

ON A CRUISE.—H.M.S. Scout left Esquimalt yesterday morning at 9 o'clock on a practising cruise as far as Burrard Inlet. She is expected back on Wednesday. On passing round the coast the Scout was engaged in ball practice.

OFFICIAL COMPLIMENTS.—Yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock Major Gen. Steele and his staff, accompanied by Allan Francis, Esq., U. S. Consul, paid a visit to the U. S. Cutler Lincoln, Capt. White, and then went on board H.M.S. Alert, Capt. Innes. The general and the Consul received the customary salutes from both vessels.

PUT BACK.—The vessel seen to round Race Rocks on Sunday evening was the Russian ship Cesarewitch, which put back from stress of weather and anchored off Esquimalt harbor.

Thursday, May 17.

PUBLICAN FINED.—The proprietor of the Commercial Hotel was charged in the police court yesterday with having supplied a bottle of spirits to an Indian. Mr. Bishop appeared for the accused. Officers Wilmer and Taylor and the Indian deposed to the sale of a bottle of Old Tom to the Indian at a back door. For the defence the sale was admitted, but it was urged that the Indian dressed himself up as a gentleman in order to deceive, and that when asked whether he was not a half-breed he answered in very good English and the spirits were thereupon supplied to him in good faith. Mr. Bishop commented on the improbability of any respectable publican impeding his license for the sake of four bits, that his client had been entrapped by the police who received half of the penalty inflicted, and that this establishment. The Superintendent having been appealed to as to the character of the house, Mr. Pemberton said he had patiently listened to the case and thought that the charge was not only well founded but perfectly clear. These were not times however for heavy penalties, and as this was the first case of a licensed house that had been brought before him for a long time, he should impose a fine of \$100 or two months' imprisonment. The accused wished to say something in regard to the police, but the magistrate would not hear it, and said any charges against them must be made in the proper quarter.

AN AMAZON.—Ann Porteous was charged yesterday in the police court with assaulting George Lawson, the present proprietor. The complainant's charge was that the accused came to the premises and demanded admission which was refused, and that she then became violent and struck him; he therefore prayed that she be placed under restraint. Mrs. Porteous denied the charge and alleged that the accused knocked her down, kicked her, and bit her on the arm. She exhibited an ugly mark (not a strawberry) on her arm, but called no witnesses to support the allegation although the affray was witnessed by a crowd. The complainant swore that he never touched the woman, and his statement was borne out by two or three witnesses who were called by the complainant, one of whom helped to carry the woman home, and on arriving there she fell down and he fell over her, when she bit his finger, and he retired from the conflict to dress his wounds. Mr. Bishop, who appeared for the complainant, said he did not ask that the woman be punished, but that she be placed under recognizances to be of good behavior. The magistrate took pity on the forlorn condition of the accused, and gave her three days to find security to keep the peace.

INGENUOUS INVENTION FOR RAISING SUNKEN VESSELS.—Mr. Jonathan Begg, of this city, has invented what appears to be an ingenious and comparatively inexpensive machine for raising sunken vessels in any depth up to 60 fathoms. Mr. Begg undertakes with this invention to raise any vessel even at a depth beyond the reach of divers. He is of opinion that he could raise the ill-fated Labouchere as she lies without any difficulty, and has submitted an offer by today's mail to the parties who purchased the sunken wreck. We do not profess ourselves competent to pass a scientific judgment on the merits of the invention which was shown to us yesterday, but if it can accomplish one half of what the inventor asserts, he should receive the honor of knighthood.

FROM PORTLAND.—The schooner A. Crosby, Capt. Perkins, arrived yesterday morning from Portland, with two passengers, and a cargo of flour, bacon, oats, etc. Cap. Perkins spoke the bark Glympe and Oakland, at Neah bay, the former bound to Port Discovery, and the latter to Port Laddow, a brig was also seen at a distance. The weather was very wet during the passage.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday from New Westminster with 35 passengers and \$16,000 in treasure for the Bank of British Columbia. She brought Dietz & Nelson's express.

GEN. F. STEELE, of the U. S. Army, and his staff proceeded yesterday in the Diana to San Juan Island. Before embarking Mr. Gentle, photographic artist, took an excellent view of the groups including Consul Francis.

STEALING BOOTS.—Williams, a half-breed Kanaka, pleaded guilty yesterday to stealing a pair of boots from another Kanaka, and was sent to jail for three months.

REVISOR.—W. J. Macdonald, Esq., has been appointed a Revisor of Real Estate tax vice Lumley Franklin, Esq., resigned.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—No business was done yesterday, the Speaker having counted out. The House will meet to-day at 3 p.m.

GEN. HALLECK is expected to arrive here in a fortnight on a tour of inspection of the coast.

FOR THE SOUND.—The steamer Eliza Anderson will leave for Puget Sound at the usual hour this morning.

SUPREME COURT.

[BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE NEEDHAM.]

SPECIAL CASE.

DALY vs BUTTERS.—This was an action instituted by the Plaintiff lately a steward on board the steamship California, against John S. Butters, late commander of the said steamship, for damages for wrongful dismissal.

Mr. Ring instructed by Messrs. Parkes & Green, appeared for the plaintiff; the Attorney General instructed by Messrs. Drake & Jackson for the master who is absent in California. The defendant pleaded that he did not discharge, and also mis-conduct on the part of the plaintiff, and with leave of the Court added a substituted contract.

The plaintiff was sworn, and stated that he had signed articles as steward at \$40 per month for the voyage. On the night of the 13th April, before the steamer left for New Westminster, there was some disturbance among the boys on board, and plaintiff was called by the Captain, and without any reason being assigned, was abruptly ordered ashore with a curse.

In cross-examination—Plaintiff denied that he had come up for the purpose of going to Big Bend.

John Johnson proved that a disturbance took place on the night in question in the cabin among some of the passengers.

Allan Francis, U. S. Consul, stated that he was met in the street by the plaintiff and informed that he had been summarily dismissed from the California. Witness replied that it was contrary to law and could not be done unless the captain appeared before him and deposited three months' wages. Witness subsequently saw the captain and informed him that the act was illegal and that he should refuse the ship's papers unless the captain deposited three months' wages. The captain said he had not discharged the plaintiff as he was well aware that he could not discharge a seaman at a foreign port. He (the Consul) then told the plaintiff to go to work. Saw him next on the wharf and told him to return to his duty and plaintiff replied that his clothes were at the hotel. The captain also wanted the plaintiff to return to his duty.

Kent's Commentaries and Story on Contracts were quoted by the learned counsel in reference to the duties of masters in foreign ports and also as to the *lex loci contractus*, the Attorney General having raised a question as to the jurisdiction of the court. His Honor decided that he had jurisdiction in the matter.

For the defence no witnesses were called, but the plaintiff was again placed in the box and admitted that another steward named Plummer had met him and asked him to forget what had happened and to return to work, but that he refused. In reply to the court witness declared that he was forward when the disturbance took place and was called by the captain and abruptly ordered ashore without any explanation being given. The oaths uttered by the captain and the sudden outburst of temper quite "scared him."

Counsel having addressed the court His Honor said the case must be treated by the court like all other cases and no difference could be made in this court between one case and another. It would be a bad day for the colony when it could be said that any difference was made between cases or persons. The story that the court was asked to believe in regard to the captain having dismissed the plaintiff without assigning any reason was a most improbable one, but it had not been contradicted, and the court must therefore proceed upon what was before it. The court was satisfied however that the plaintiff had not deserted his ship; that he was in fact ready to serve, and had been wrongfully dismissed. The captain must have been laboring under some mistake or error when in a moment of irritation he fastened upon the plaintiff as the person who had caused the disturbance. The captain admitted to the Consul that he had made a mistake. There was nothing further against the captain than that he aggravated the dismissal by swearing coarse oaths. The inconvenience caused by the lateness of the hour at which the man had been hurried off and that it was only at the last moment, under pressure by the Consul, that the captain admitted his error and wanted the man to go back, which he would not and was not by law compelled to do were facts that the court must consider. In the second place the allegations on record were a series of complaints that were untrue. His Honor felt bound as a jury to look at these circumstances, and taking the rate of wages, loss of account, probable cost of return, &c., into account, gave judgment for the plaintiff for \$70 and costs. We understand the case will be appealed.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MONDAY, May 14.

Council met at 2:45 p.m. Present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary (presiding), Attorney General, Treasurer, and H. Rhodes.

INVESTMENT SAVINGS AND LOAN BILL. This bill came up from the House below, and was read the first time.

SANITARY COMMISSION ACT, 1865. This bill also came up from the Assembly and was read the first time.

AMENDMENT TO LIQUOR LICENSE ACT, 1861. Council went into Committee on this bill, the Hon. Treasurer in the chair.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary moved for a recommission of clauses 1 and 4 which was agreed to and the clauses were amended so as to make the Act apply to Colville town at Nanaimo, the place having been always designated on the map as Colville town, and the name Nanaimo being considered too comprehensive. The third reading of the bill was fixed for next meeting.

HOMESTEAD AND IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT BILLS. Bills were called on.

The consideration of these bills was deferred. The Hon. Colonial Secretary thought it a pity that the latter bill should have been left so long, and he should certainly move at the next meeting that it be considered.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION. Hon. Mr. Rhodes, after perusing this bill, thought that the purposes for which it had been framed were expedient.

The Hon. Col. Sec. remarked that the 20th section of the Incorporation Act gave the Municipal body full powers to act in such

matters, and this bill sought to ignore them altogether, and to take the power out of their hands.

The hon. Attorney General pointed out that the bill enacted that it was expedient to appoint a Commission for Vancouver Island and its dependencies, and yet it was provided that it should cease on an act being passed for the Incorporation of the City.

The hon. Treasurer observed that the Government was bound to recognize the Corporation as a legal power, as it had an account current with them.

The hon. Col. Sec. explained the powers vested by the Act in the Corporation to abate nuisances and levy penalties in default of compliance.

The hon. Treasurer said as an instance of the powers still possessed by the Corporation; some property holders at James Bay had recently petitioned to have sidewalks laid down and repaired, and it had been done. That was a matter that did not require the expenditure of money by them.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes.—It has been decided that they have not power to raise money has it not?

Hon. Chairman.—No, it was only held that they had not the power to tax trades.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes.—It is a pity that the powers of the Corporation are not more generally known.

Hon. Treasurer.—It is a great pity that their powers were ever questioned. This bill, he thought, however, had a more comprehensive scope, and sought to check the introduction of the cholera, cattle plagues, and other epidemics.

Hon. Col. Sec.—Would not see much objection to the bill if Victoria was to be accepted on an Incorporation Act being passed, so as to leave the bill still in operation, but as it stood the bill was valueless directly the Incorporation bill became law.

After some further discussion the Council adjourned till Thursday.

CITY COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 16.

Council met at 7:30 p.m. Present—His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors Gowen, Lewis, Jeffery sen., and Layzell.

COMMUNICATIONS. The following communication from the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department with enclosure was read, and received and filed: OFFICER VICTORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT, May 16th, 1866.

To His Worship Mayor Franklin and the Members of the City Council.

GENTLEMEN.—Before the petition for the use of the chaingang was presented to the Governor I had petitioned His Excellency for the repair of Yates street, between Broad and Douglas, and suggested the use of convict labor to do the same. Enclosed please find an answer to my communication from the Colonial Secretary.

In furtherance of my object, allow me to say that I cannot be responsible for the use of one of the engines, viz.: Deluge, without certain repairs are made, though of a very inconsiderable nature yet very important. I would beg of you to take this matter in consideration while you have the use of the gang, as the breakage of an engine or its late arrival at a fire might cause great loss of property, as also of life.

I feel satisfied that I have only to bring this matter to your notice in order to have the remedy applied.

I have the honor, &c., J. S. DRUMMOND, Chief Engineer.

ENCLOSURE. COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, May 16th, 1866.

STR.—I have laid before the Governor your letter of the 10th inst., relative to the repair of a bad portion of Yates street, and in reply thereto I am to inform you that the chaingang have just now been placed at the disposal of the Mayor for the purpose of cleaning the streets of the city, and His Excellency doubts not if you will put yourself in communication with the Mayor that you will be able to arrange for their employment to remedy the evil you complain of.

I have, &c., WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG, J. S. Drummond, Esq., Chief Engineer.

A communication was also read from J. S. Willis, Secretary to the Queen Charlotte Coal Co., asking permission for the use of the room for the meeting of shareholders to-day. Leave granted.

SANITARY COMMISSION. Mr. Lewis's motion for the appointment of a Committee of the Council to attend to sanitary affairs within the city limits came up.

The mover said that on further consideration he was of opinion that a by-law was necessary, and while that was being prepared he thought the object would be met by the Committee on Nuisances, if they would see that the by-law on nuisances was strictly enforced. He obtained leave to withdraw his original motion and moved instead that the Committee on Nuisances prepare a by-law to present to the Council at its next meeting. The motion was carried.

THE CHAIN GANG. The Mayor said that in conformity with the resolution of the Council the Committee waited on the Colonial Secretary on Monday and in arranging details as to the chaingang the Colonial Secretary kindly afforded every assistance. He stated that the gang was entirely at the service of the Mayor, the hiring of carts and the use of tools, &c., being left to the Council, there were certain expenses to be incurred which it would be well now for the Council to confirm.

The following motion made by Mr. Lewis was agreed to: "That the Clerk be instructed to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency's communication, and to inform the Executive that the Mayor and Council have confirmed by vote and assented to the conditions expressed in His Excellency's communication."

THE CHIEF ENGINEER'S LETTER. Mr. Gowen said he had seen the places referred to by the Chief Engineer, which were very dangerous and likely to cause serious injury to the fire engine. The damage now that the means were at the command of the Council could be very easily repaired. He called attention to other places equally as dangerous, particularly so at night. He moved that the Mayor comply with the request.

Mr. Layzell seconded the motion and thought that while the chain gang was employed in their present work His Excellency would consent to their breaking stone to repair some of the bad places in the streets.

Mr. Jeffery sen., thought that the gang should finish cleaning the streets first, and see what that was going to cost; and the Council should not be in too great a hurry to incur the expense of breaking stone and repairing the streets.

Mr. Gowen said that a good deal of stone ready for use could be had at the corner of Government and Fort streets.

Mr. Lewis remarked that it had been said that the gang would not perform the work properly; he thought that the manner in which these poor men had cleaned the streets during the last two or three days was very good indeed for forced labor. No doubt stone could be had in various quarters outside the town, and after finishing the dirty work in the town it would do the gang good to get fresh country air.

STREET CROSSINGS AND NUISANCES. Mr. Lewis called attention to some of the sleepers for street crossings choking up the gutters. He alluded more particularly to that from the Queen's Market to Mason & Balls on Wharf street, and thought the property holders should be notified to have the same rectified.

The Mayor said that in cleaning the gutters it was found that greasy water, vegetable washings, and refuse from restaurants were conveyed into the streets, which was very injurious to health. The committee should direct their attention to this matter. Council adjourned till Monday evening, at the usual hour.

EXCOMMUNICATION OF THE BISHOP OF NATAL.—The last mail from Natal brings the formal excommunication of Dr. Colenso, which took place on Sunday, the 5th of January, at the cathedral of Maritzburg, at the early service, when the dean read out the sentence as follows:—"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,—We, Robert, by Divine permission metropolitan of the Church in the province of Capetown, in accordance with the decision of the bishops of the province in synod assembled, do hereby, it being our office and our grief to do so, by the authority of Christ committed unto us, pass upon John William Colenso, D.D., the sentence of the greater excommunication thereby separating him from the Communion of the Church of Christ so long as he shall obstinately and impenitently persist in his heresy, and claim to exercise the office of a bishop within the province of Capetown. And we do hereby make known to the faithful in Christ, that being thus excluded from all communion with the Church, he is, according to our Lord's command, and in conformity with the provisions of the xxxiii. of the Articles of Religion to be taken of the man and publican." (Matt. xviii. 17, 18). Given under our hand and seal, this 16th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.—R. CARSTROW.—We learn, also, that Dr. Colenso has found a new coadjutor in his unauthorised ministrations at the cathedral in the person of the Rev. Mr. Nisbet, a military chaplain attached to the forces in Natal.—The *Obit* says:—The excommunication of Bishop Colenso has united but unofficial concurrence of the two archbishops and nearly all the episcopal bench. They will uphold the jurisdiction of Bishop Gray as metropolitan, and will refuse to acknowledge Bishop Colenso. A successor has been designated for the see of Natal, and when he shall be consecrated they will hold communion with him, and not with the excommunicated prelate. There is no appeal to any English court against this sentence.—*Eng. Paper.*

UNENCLOSING A COMMON.—Some short time back Earl Brownlow enclosed Berkhamstead Common, near his residence, Ashridge Park, with an iron fence five feet high, at an expense of £1000. The greater portion of the common, occupying a space some two miles in length and from three-quarters of a mile to a mile and a half broad, was enclosed a fortnight ago by Earl Brownlow; and we learn that Mr. Augustus Smith, of the Scilly Islands, as the owner of an estate near, and therefore as a commoner acting in concert with his neighbors, had determined to test his lordship's right to this course in a very practical way. On Monday night a special train arrived at Tring with an organized gang of some 120 men, provided with proper tools. These men were marched to the common—three miles off, and were then told off in detachments a dozen strong; the substantial joints of the railings were first loosened by hammers and chisels, and the crowbars did the rest. Before six o'clock on Tuesday morning the whole of the enclosure was levelled to the ground; each stout upright having the metal bands, its tributaries, first neatly folded round it, and then being laid upon the turf it had recently served to close in. It was seven o'clock before the alarm was given, and by the time Mr. Faxton—the late Sir Joseph Paxton's brother—and Earl Brownlow's steward appeared upon the scene, Berkhamstead Common was no longer enclosed. It was too late to do more than protest against the alleged trespass, and this was energetically done. It remains to be seen what further steps will be taken.—*Bell's Life.*

THE STRIKE ON GROUSE CREEK.—Monday, 7th May, 1866.—We have just seen one of the members of the Sneddon or Discovery claim who informs us that the reports hitherto circulated regarding the strike of £1500 to the set of timbers are incorrect; although they had got good prospects, say two ounces a day to the hand. They have been working across the channel for some time past, and although now over thirty feet across it, are still finding the same pay. On Friday and Saturday last, however, they could pick up gold plentifully in the dirt, and though only working six men one shift, washed up 60 lbs. each of these days. They are not on the bedrock yet.—*Sentinel.*

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, May 22, 1866.

By Electric Telegraph.

SPECIAL TO THE BRITISH COLONIST.

From British Columbia.

BY COLLINS' OVERLAND TELEGRAPH.

Later from Big Bend.

TWENTY THREE OUNCES TAKEN OUT IN THREE DAYS.

COARSE GOLD.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN BLAIR.

CLINTON, May 17th.—The Fillibuster Co. took 150 dollar and 75 cents worth of dust into Fisk & Greenbaum's store at Lillooet, this was the result of their first two days work.

Judge Begbie had left Lillooet in company with Judge Elliott for the Bridge river mines. The Hon. Mr. Walkem and Mr. Walker have passed upwards.

A Cariboo butcher just returned from Big Bend, states it will be five or six weeks before cattle can be got into the mines.

CACHE CREEK, May 17th.—As the Hon. Attorney General was travelling along the Bonapart, in allowing his horse to drink, the animal's forefoot slipped, and precipitated its rider into the stream. He was saved by catching hold of some bushes. The Hon. gentlemen suffered nothing but a severe ducking, the loss of his hat, and a walk of four miles after his horse. He proceeded towards Yale with a red handkerchief tied over his head.

DEEP CREEK, May 17.—Baroard's Express stage, six horses, arrived here at 5 p.m. with a full load of passengers and considerable freight. The first miners direct from Big Bend mines and bound for Cariboo passed here to-day. Their report of Big Bend is not at all favorable. They are confident that the rush from there to Cariboo is about to commence.

A party of five men aided by the Government, leave Soda Creek to-morrow for the purpose of prospecting in the vicinity of Canon Creek.

Freight by pack trains and wagons arriving daily. Weather fine and crops all have favorable appearance.

CACHE CREEK, May 18th.—A good number of miners are on the way back from Big Bend. They give an unfavorable account, and say that there can be no mining done there for nearly two months.

HORN, May 18th.—Another large gang of Chinamen started for the Similkameen to-day. From a person who knows these mines well, we learn that on the Similkameen, exists a false bed-rock, as in many places in the mines of California. A layer of gravel underlies this false bed-rock, and in California the richest diggings have been found in similar places. Our informant thinks the Chinamen have cut through this bed-rock, and found rich gravel below it. This would account for such numbers of them going over there. The Similkameen trail is to be opened immediately, and Mr. Allison left here this morning to make the necessary preparations for the work. The weather has been very unpleasant for some days, and the river is still rising; it has reached 14 feet above low water mark.

CLINTON, May 19th.—Gold has been taken out on McCulloch's Gulch, and French Creek. A Company of three on the latter, took out twenty three ounces coarse gold in three days.

Mr. John Blair late of 111 mile house, was drowned at Death Rapids, it is supposed he tried to save the canoe after the rope broke.

Further Particulars.

LITTON, May 19.—John A. Colbeck, on his way to New Westminster, has just arrived here. He reports the death of John Blair, formerly of the 111-mile house, by drowning, on the 8th inst. The particulars are as follows: It appears Blair was freighting goods some where below Death Rapids to Wilson's Landing in a boat, when she sheared just above the rapids, and Blair seeing the danger seized an oar and jumped from the boat, thinking he could reach the shore, but the current being too strong he was carried down the river and his body was picked up two miles below holding on to the oar. His remains were interred with all respect by the miners at the steamboat landing. An Indian who was in the boat with him at the time jumped on to a rock and saved himself.

The Monroe Company, French Creek, washed up on the 8th nine ounces, on the 9th ten ounces, on the 10th three and a half ounces.

On the 11th the Discovery Company washed up four ounces, this being their first washing for the season.

On McCulloch's Creek, above the canon, a few claims were paying from wages to one ounce a day, the pay dirt being from four to six feet deep.

A great many claims have been taken up on both creeks, prospected and abandoned. The steamer Forty-nine was expected to make her third trip on the 13th.

One hundred men left the Columbia river on the 12th. Times dull and provisions cheap.

Latest from Cariboo.

GOLD BEING TAKEN OUT.

WILLIAMS CREEK, May 10.

THE CALIFORNIA TUNNEL CO., referred to in Monday's report as waiting for water, have now commenced washing. They cleaned up yesterday noon 33 ounces of very coarse gold. This company's ground is situated in the rear of the Last Chance, and may be strictly called a hill claim.

THE CALLEDONIA Co. washed up yesterday 40 ounces.

MAY 14.—The Creek is beginning to resume its wonted appearance of summer activity, and in another week, when the time

of lying over expires, we expect to see every old claim at work and in a fair way of taking out pay, with the exception of those in the neighborhood of Barkerville, which will have to wait for the completion of the bed rock drain. This has now reached the Lillooet ground, and will be carried on rapidly. During the week the weather has been cool, which having checked the rise of the creek, has been favorable to mining, and several additional companies have got fairly under way. The prospects for a good summer's work, we think, never looked brighter than at present.

RED ROCK DRAIN.—From and after to-day three eight hour shifts will keep at work. It is also intended to pump at once the Cariboo shaft and let another relay of hands work at that point in order to push the undertaking ahead with as little delay as possible. This looks like energy and a determination to have the work finished in time to admit of some benefit being derived from the drain this summer.

CUNNINGHAM CREEK.—There are several companies about to resume operations on this creek for the summer. It is to be hoped that their attempts to find the continuation of the lead worked by the Kentucky Co. last summer will prove successful, as such a discovery would do much towards encouraging fresh efforts to find good paying diggings on this extensive creek.

GROUSE CREEK.—It is said that a company having ground situated between the Discovery Company and the Short Bend Company have sunk a shaft to the depth of 25 or 30 feet and got a prospect of \$7 to a few pans of dirt. They have started a tunnel from the creek.

Mr. Shaw was thrown from his horse near Barkerville on Friday last and broke his leg. The limb was set by Drs. Chipp and Bell. The cause of the accident was the bad state of the road.

QUEENELLE, May 17.—A company of three white men and two Indians has been organized to prospect fully Canon Creek. The inhabitants have subscribed \$300 and the Government \$200.

BY CALIFORNIA STATE TELEGRAPH.

CALIFORNIA.

ROBBERY OF THE SAN JUAN STAGE.

THE ROBBERS SHOT BY ONE MAN.

MASSACRE AT FORT GOODWIN DENIED.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 15.—General Mason writing to General McDowell from Sacalone, on April 30th, says: I have just heard via Fort Yuma of the massacre at Fort Goodwin that there is not a word of truth in the story. Sacalone is only four days travel from Fort Goodwin, with daily communication.

The steamer America to-day carried 650 passengers. She had \$125,000 in treasure, shipped by the Bank of British North America to New York.

Reports by the steamer state that a very strong tide of immigration is setting this way from the East. A great number of tickets are engaged several trips ahead.

O'Grady, the Russ House robber, was convicted this morning on the testimony of his confederate, Mills.

Donahue, book-keeper for the California Building and Loan Society, has sued Mooney, a director, for \$50,000 damages, for charging him with grand larceny because he carried home a balance sheet.

Judge Rix has sentenced a spiritualist detective named Hurd or DeWolf, to pay a fine of \$21 for appearing in public wearing breeches.

Forrest began his engagement last night to a fine audience, but the increase of prices caused the house to have 300 vacant seats. The acting was grand.

SHIPPING.

Arrived—Ship Star of the Union, 125 days from New York; steamer Orizaba from Portland.

MARKETS.

Large sales of local refined in sugar, at auction to-day, show a decline in the market.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16.—No Eastern news to-day.

Augustus M. Heslip commenced suit in the Fourth District Court against Judge O. H. Pratt of the Twelfth District Court, and for cause of action alleges that in 1864 plaintiff had suit against Captain Chas. N. Weber, of Stockton, to recover \$50,000 for wounds inflicted by Weber, who shot him with a pistol. At the commencement of the trial, he (Heslip) proposed to introduce evidence of the ability of Weber to respond to heavy damages, which proposition the court overruled. The jury on the case afterwards awarded \$30,000 damages, when Weber applied for a new trial. Judge Pratt then informed Heslip after the matter had been argued that he would be compelled to grant a new trial, but if he would remit one half the amount of the verdict the case should be dismissed. Heslip chose to accept the \$15,000 to avoid the vexation and chances of another trial. He now claims that the court had no authority to assess damages which had already been passed upon by the jury, and he therefore asks damages in the sum of \$20,000 against Judge Pratt.

John O'Grady was convicted in the County Court last evening of robbing the Russ House safe; the jury recommended him, to the mercy of the court.

Charles Spencer, a well known and highly esteemed member of the San Francisco bar died at Healdsburg on Monday.

Gold on May 14.—130 1/2. Sterling Exchange 109. Coffee—Sales 109 bags Rio at 23c, time; Manila, 22@22 1/2c; Java, 20 1/2. Molasses lower—Sales 976 bbls good Hawaiian, 30c per gallon.

SHIPPING.

Arrived—Stmr Montana, Columbia River. U.S.S. Saranac, 11th Guyanas.

Cleared—Stmr Sierra Nevada, Victoria. Sailed—Bark J. Conium, Puget Sound, bark Carlotta, Puget Sound.

NEVADA CITY, May 15.—The San Juan stage, with six passengers, was stopped this morning about half past four by three robbers masked. They blew open Wells Fargo & Co.'s treasure box and took \$7,900, but none of the passengers were robbed. So

soon as the stage arrived Sheriff Gentry started with a posse in pursuit of the robbers. About three miles from town, Steve Venard, formerly City Marshal, got on the track, and followed them to Nipper's Ravine, two miles from where the robbery was committed. Just as he crossed the ravine he looked above on the side hill, and twenty-five feet from him he saw the head of a robber who was ready to fire. Steve quickly levelled his Henry's repeating rifle and fired, the ball striking the man on the left side and killing him instantly. Robber No. 2 then raised his pistol, but Steve being too quick fired and hit him under the right eye, killing him instantly. No. 3 then ran, when Steve fired, but missed, and fired again, when the ball passed through the man's heart. The treasure was secured.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 17th.—During the first four months of 1855, arrivals from the east by Panama and San Juan routes were 5843 persons, against 7079 for the same period this year, showing a gain of nearly 1900. A large number of these are returned Californians, who not finding matters at the East prosperous, have returned. Arrivals this month compared with first half of May, 1855, shows a proportionately still greater increase, 1214 passengers having arrived by two steamers this year, against 774 last year.

The steamer Moses Taylor, is now due with a large number of passengers. Sailed—Ship Parisian, Port Angeles. Gold—16th 130 1/2.

BENICIA, May 16.—A large and enthusiastic meeting of the Fenian Brotherhood took place this evening. Colonel Walsh made a glorious speech. The Garfield guard turned out in full rank with a band of music, followed by an immense crowd from all parts of the country, bearing transparencies torches &c. [Tremendous!]

SAN FRANCISCO, May 19.—The steamship Golden City sailed this morning for Panama carrying 525 passengers.

Judge Rix, in the police court, decided this morning that street railroad companies must take greenbacks for tickets. The decision gives universal satisfaction to the public.

Gold dropped to 128, Sterling remaining firm but quiet at 103 1/2.

SHIPPING.

Arrived—Bark Rival, 12 days from Port Discovery.

Sailed—Ship Carolina, Read, for Puget Sound.

The Orizaba left for Portland at 4 o'clock. The Montana left for the same destination at 4:30 p.m.

European.

War Imminent between Austria and Italy.

GLADSTONE'S BUDGET.

NEW YORK, May 14.—The following is the latest foreign news received via Queenstown. LONDON, May 3.—Consols closed at 88 1/2 @ 86 3/4 for money. The Bank of England to-day advanced the rate of interest to 7 per cent. The financial depression in London and Paris was unabated.

LIVERPOOL, May 3.—The cotton market was easier, with a downward tendency, owing to the advance of bank rates. Sales on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 110,000 bales, and to-day 5000 bales.

London dates by overland telegraph are to May 3d. Apprehensions of war in Continental Europe excited the most depressing influence on the funds; all securities were lower including American. Interest at the Bank of England has been raised to 7 per cent.

The rise in gold in New York is doubtless due to this distracted state.

NEW YORK, May 16th.—Steamer Jura brings European advices to May 6th. Consols closed Saturday 86 1/2 @ 87 for money. 6 20's 67 1/2 @ 68 1/2; Paris Bourse closed 27 2/3; bank of Frankfurt has advanced its rate of discount to 6 per cent.

Prussia has declared to the Diet, that warlike preparations on her part, are entirely on the defensive. The Austrian reply to the last Prussian note, was conciliatory, but she declines to disarm under present circumstances. Warlike preparations in Venetia were being pressed forward earnestly. A popular demonstration had taken place at Padua, where great excitement prevailed. It is rumored that Venetia will be placed in a state of seige.

PARIS May 5th.—The Memorial Diplomatique denies that France made an energetic remonstrance at Venetia, relative to Austria's armaments in Venetia, and says the despatch sent to Venetia on the subject, requested confidential explanations respecting the object of Austrian preparations. The Austrian Government replied, protesting that it would maintain strictly a defensive attitude. France accepted the explanation, and the result was a mutual understanding, according to which, Austria undertakes, should Italy attack Venetia, independent of France, not to secure for herself any of the results of victory, without the diplomatic intervention of France. It is asserted that the object of Austria, in menacing Prussia and Italy, is to force England to assent to the convention of a European Congress.

NEW YORK, May 17.—The Tribune's Florence correspondent, under date of April 30, opens his letter thus: "Within a fortnight we shall be involved in war. The abandoned fortress of Remona is being fortified in haste, a fleet concentrated, and all soldiers on full pay recalled—even the reserve of classes 1864-5-6. All the official papers fire the Italian heart. Generals La Marmora, Pettigo, and Petti assembled in military council; everybody prepares for war, still they try to shift the responsibility upon the Austrian armaments. The fact is Napoleon is a great wire puller, who first pushed Bismarck, and now pushes La Marmora; so that Austria cannot avoid war."

NEW YORK, 17.—The following was received by the Jura: In the House of Commons Gladstone read his annual financial statement for the ensuing year, estimating the expenditure at \$26,225,000 and the revenue at \$27,575,000, leaving a surplus of \$1,350,000. Gladstone in referring to the American debt said: "I must confess I think the future of America, so far as finance is concerned, will not be attended with any embarrassment. I do not believe

her debt will constitute any difficulty for the American people. In moderate time it will be brought within a small limit. It may even within the time of persons now living be liquidated. Although at this moment America has a war taxation, the amount of revenue will not be less I apprehend than 80,000,000 British money, the largest sum ever raised in any country for purposes of central government."

The Vienna correspondent of the Paris Patrie says that Austria is placing herself in a state of complete defence. Troops are arriving from all points including Peschiera and Legnano. The military authorities are stirring, more especially in the fortresses of Verona and Mantua. The artillery of Verona consists of more than 500 cannon in battery, besides spare guns at all main points between Verona and Mantua. The Austrians have erected redoubts and intrenchments which will be strongly filled. The quadrilateral is therefore, an immense entrenched camp where all the advantages will be on the side of defence. Napoleon has made an exposition of the position of France towards Italy and the contending German powers to the French Corps Legislatif, through M. Rouher, Minister of State. It is terse and decisive, declaring in favor of a pacific policy, honest neutrality, and entire freedom of action for the empire. Italy, the Emperor says, is free to choose her own course, but like Austria must take on herself alone all the risks of war.

CANADA.

MONTREAL, May 18.—The steamer Lyon on her trial trip yesterday afternoon exploded her boilers, two miles below Montreal. Sixty lives were lost and several persons injured.

EASTERN NEWS.

WASHINGTON, 16.—In the Senate the proceedings are important. Fessenden of Maine did not call up the House resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution, but Stevens of Nevada gave notice that he would move to amend the first resolution, so as to define the word citizens, without this he said the Constitution of both first and second sections would depend upon the striking out the second section, disfranchising rebels, and would offer the first section as a substitute for several bills reported by committee, he would then make the bill excluding rebels from office the second section of this substitute and in addition require each State to consent thereto, and authorize by amendments to their Constitution universal suffrage. This being done by any State, such State should be admitted without waiting the action of other States.

Wilson of Massachusetts introduced a bill to fix the military peace establishment of the United States, which was referred to the Military Committee, it provides that the army shall consist of five regiments Artillery six Cavalry regiments now in force, the companies to consist of 64 privates as the minimum, the men to be enlisted for five years.

In the House Waburne of Illinois reported from the Committee on Commerce a bill to amend the act for the safety of passengers on steamers; he stated that it contained a section to prevent the transportation of nitro-glycerine; also one to modify the construction given by law, in reference to crude petroleum or coal oil; that construction he said prevented the shipment of the article and interfered very much with commerce, the bill was read a third time and passed.

CHICAGO, May 19.—Fremont's associates in the purchase of the South-west Pacific R. R., Missouri, were Levi Parsons, Thomas A. Scott, and James P. Robinson.

NEW YORK, May 19.—A communication in the Tribune concerning the purchase of Lower California by an American Company says: The grant of Lower California, with its harbors, mines, and fisheries, which was recently acquired by the Company, was made by the Republican Government of Mexico on the 30th March, 1851, before the advent of Maximilian when Juarez was in full power. This grant remained unexecuted until April last, when the Company paid the money to Minister Romero. The grant has been carefully examined by Hon. R. J. Walker and Caleb Cushing, both of whom have pronounced it regularly made, full in power, and altogether valid.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—As the contract for the colonization of Lower California seems to be misunderstood, it may be of interest to state from official data that Jacob P. Leese, with the endorsement of the local authorities, entered into a contract with the Mexican Government for the colonization of parts of Lower California. He was to receive land at tariff prices, and to advance certain sums of money, and men which it was agreed should be paid. This was paid, Romero, the Mexican Agent, therefore, has sold some vacant lands, but not the sovereignty of the country. The provisions of the contract are besides very advantageous to Mexico.

NEW YORK, May 19.—Vera Cruz dates of the 8th announce the arrival of the notorious guerrilla, Quantrell, who had gone to the City of Mexico.

The Common Council of Elizabeth, N. J., have tendered to Santa Anna their respects and the hospitality of the city. Next week Santa Anna will remove to New York.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—It is reported that short diplomatic notes recently passed between Seward and the French Minister with regard to French and Austrian troops lately landed in Vera Cruz. Seward insists that no more French troops must be sent to Mexico even to take the place of killed and disabled or those whose terms have expired. The French Minister says the landing of these reinforcements will not delay evacuation as he heretofore specified.

CHICAGO, May 18.—Fremont has purchased the south-west branch of the Pacific railroad from St. Louis to Rolla, with the right of way to Springfield, paying the State of Missouri \$1,300,000. \$4,000,000 will be required to complete the road to Springfield.

NEW YORK, May 18.—The Fenian Stepanizer" to "Head Centre," raised some \$3000 by the Jones' Wood demonstration, and will shortly start for a tour of the principal cities on a financial errand. He refuses to publish the result of investigations. The Treasurer of the Fenian Senate, Robert, ignores Stepan's authority altogether. He is mastering for a military demonstration.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEW ORLEANS, May 14.—Mayor Monroe was inaugurated to-day with interesting ceremonies.

The people of Texas were contributing money for the family of Albert Sydney Johnston, said to be in want in California. Private letters from Mexico confirm the announcement of the death of Ex-Governor Henry W. Allen.

Dr. Gwyn took the oath and was released from Fort Jackson yesterday.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 14.—It is authoritatively understood here, as a result of Secretary McCulloch's late visit, that President Johnson directed the surgeon of the fort to make a special report on the health of Jeff Davis.

NEW YORK, May 16.—The Scotia sailed at noon taking \$3,000,000 specie. The Kangaroo sailed, taking \$370,000 specie.

Chas. Kelsey's cotton warehouses at Brooklyn was burned this morning; a large amount of cotton and several buildings destroyed. Loss very heavy, the amount not estimated. Health officers report the said warehouses become hot with cholera had occurred in the hospital ship, all well on board the Virginia and Illinois.

A HINT TO THE REVISORS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir,—With all its imperfections, and they are not a few, the Real Estate Tax Act contains a principle which, if acted upon by the Revisors, will go far to lessen the monetary pressure so keenly felt just now by all classes except Government officials. The principle embodied is this: If, owing to want of wisdom or extravagance on the part of our rulers, the value of property declines, the revenue which is required to pay the salaries (for the Executive proposes no public works), declines in the same proportion; the funds to meet the said salaries become insufficient, and then a wholesome lesson is taught to the powers that be.

Now, what are the facts? The Governor looks up the Crown lands, and the key rests in his pocket, as a punishment to the colonists because they will not undertake to pay a civil list out of all proportion to the population and circumstances of this small place. Settlement of the country is discontinued, no land sales are effected, and the fund upon which the Governor and Colonial Secretary have hitherto relied for their salaries this year is certain to fall short; and the Treasurer generally informs the public that the annual revenue must be charged with, in the event of the Crown revenue being insufficient.

The Revisors of former years apparently thought that they would best discharge the duties of their office by levying the heaviest tax that it was possible for each property owner to pay without actual insolvency—a course which has greatly contributed to the existing vast reduction in the value of property, and so impoverished the owner as seriously to diminish his capability of employing labor. The law on the contrary evidently intended that the Revisors should stand between the Government and the people, and should prevent oppression or injustice by ascertaining and affixing the market value in all doubtful cases.

As the Assessor I say nothing uncharitable; he does the best he can for his employers. Why blame him if he dives his hand as deeply into your pocket and mine as the Revisors allow? So numerous have been the instances the past year of valuations compelled to sell out, that in most cases on this occasion there will be little difficulty in arriving at a market value.

In England a number of years purchase of the rental, depending on the ruling rate of interest, is the criterion adopted. On this principle, as interest rates here, from one to one and a-half per cent. per month, the number of years purchase of the rental should vary from 8 1/2 to 5 1/2.

As a corollary it is clear that inasmuch as unproductive improvements have no market value, they are therefore by the Act of 1860 not liable to taxation. Take for instance a lot with a building upon it, which cannot be let, the lot should be assessed separately at its market value, but the building not at all. To do so is simply to punish the enterprising improver for erecting a building which at present has no market value, and to place him in a far worse position than a non-improving neighbor alongside them. Numerous similar instances readily suggest themselves.

Again, with regard to suburban lands, exorbitant taxation has no other effect than to deprive the owner of the means of employing labor, and thus impoverishes both him and the colony. The eyes of this small community are, now attentively turned upon the classes with Herulaneum and Pompei, I would in the words of that eminent showman, respectfully and earnestly suggest to them, wherever doubt exists in your mind in arriving at the market value, when drawing the trigger "remember to draw it mild."

Being interrupted by a visit from my official assignee, I hastily subscribe myself, Sir, your obedient servant, PROPERTY OWNER.

SMALL BEER POLICE INSPECTORS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir,—The case reported by you, as adjudicated in the police court yesterday morning, is one of the most extraordinary that has appeared before the public yet. Mr. Hankin, the Inspector, plays first figure in the ready "to go, for to fetch, for to carry," as he is told. He never sees for himself, he is "informed." Mr. Inspector Hankin is never informed when a hen roost is to be robbed, a clothes line strip, a burglary to be committed, or any depredation in a small way. No, no, the Thames may be set on fire but Mr. Inspector Hankin could not spare a man to put it out. Query—why? Yes, why does he allow his officers to enter into arrangements with a creature with a name without a conscience, to annoy—yes that is the word—who carries a He in his mouth. I must stop; the case of Mr. Wicks is before me, a case of Billy Lyons. Rather a curious case that, is in my portfolio. I have a notion of taking a holiday upon licensing day instead of the Queen's Birthday, for a purpose, then the devil take the hindmost. WATCHMAN.

The Weekly British

Tuesday, May 22,

A DAY OF HUMILITY.

Prayer is a subject that has attracted the best minds of all ages, but more especially searching analysis at the great thinkers of the present; of the superstitious dross herded to petitions from the beauties of Christianity by heathenism, has disappeared; from recent English papers, the progress of theology, there is barbarism clinging to a large clerical mind of England. Press tells us there has just humiliation on account of the and we are presented with various sermons and prayers on that occasion from the lips of divines. The result, it would be undoubted much to the self-characteristic of Christianity. On would appear that the general not so much on account of the of sin, as because beef was It was pretty conclusively a poor were scarcely affected plague—that they rarely or pleasure of eating beef—and class the calamity could affect very well able to bear it, with probably of a few poor farm have been more readily r subscription than by a da ation. At all events it has rally considered that the by the Bishops has tended mo destroying the sacred character towards imbuing the people w humility. The Spectator on offerings "demoralizing pray pertinently enough—"Is not th the small class ruined or in plague a drop in the ocean and regular suffering of a larg base of English society, whi know what it is like to posses less to lose one? If we are ourselves, and felt bowed dow cause a few thousand farmers, drovers, are suffering bitterly, w say to the chronic misery of o the deep-dyed chronic sins of city and every agricultural p have no humiliation days for th hurricanes which make thousan and orphans in an hour—and this small pecuniary calamity a for humiliation and prayer."

Many of the clergy brought doctrine of "judgments," and to attribute the cattle plague to sins committed by the people.

Westminster, however, rebuke barism in a fitting manner. "of Europe," he said, "on wh plague has fallen are not to be that account sinners above the rope; the counties of England which have suffered most from pestilence are not therefore the rest of Great Britain; in whom it has fallen with greatest not therefore greater sinners than have altogether escaped." And of London, in the same spirit, text—"Or those eighteen on wh of Sileam fell and slew them, t they were sinners above all me in Jerusalem? I tell you nay, however, for a Worcestershire of Mr. Crawford—to bestow the m rebuke on "the day of humiliat cates"—Bishops and all. Afte the object of true humiliation, "Shall they use the holy offic what? To pray for growth in nearer conformity to the image deemer here in saintly sufferi denial, hereafter in eternal glory-participation in the Bread wh down from heaven, that we may and not die? No! But to pr Heavenly Father! He will be pleased to spare the lives of th creatures (for the same God mad not to relieve the sufferings of beasts, for those suffering the fr prayer seem to regard as be notice—but that God will be spare their lives, that upon o our carnivorous appetite may fully gorged—that He will cond abundantly to supply the sha suffer not the victims of the pole crease! Such spiritual prayers less be matched, in due season, spiritual thanksgivings! When has run its destined course, and once more abound, I suppose me of God's greater mercies—heer paratively at least of the means of of the hope of glory, will assemble to thank Him that He has given hears' desire—that, meat being abundant, they are not disappoint just; and their psalm of thanks doubt will be to the tune of "O Beef of Old England." Come now Assembly, O my soul! If, indeed suffering such horrors as one read

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, May 22, 1866.

A DAY OF HUMILIATION.

Prayer is a subject that has engaged the attention of the best minds of nearly every age, but more especially has it received searching analysis at the hands of the great thinkers of the present century. Much of the superstitious dross that of wont adhered to petitions from the pulpit, marring the beauties of Christianity by an unreasoning heathenism, has disappeared; but it is evident from recent English papers, that with all the progress of theology, there is still a strange barbarism clinging to a large portion of the clerical mind of England. The London press tells us there has just been a day of humiliation on account of the cattle plague, and we are presented with samples of the various sermons and prayers which emanated on that occasion from the lips of distinguished divines. The result, it would seem, has not redounded much to the self-denying characteristic of Christianity. On the contrary it would appear that the general abscission was not so much on account of the consciousness of sin, as because beef was rising in price. It was pretty conclusively shown that the poor were scarcely affected by the cattle plague—that they rarely or never had the pleasure of eating beef—and that the only class the calamity could affect was the class very well able to bear it, with the exception probably of a few poor farmers who would have been more readily relieved by a subscription than by a day of humiliation. At all events it has been generally considered that the action taken by the Bishops has tended more towards destroying the sacred character of prayer than towards imbuing the people with a feeling of humility. The Spectator calls the pulpit offerings "demoralizing prayers," and asks pertinently enough—"Is not the suffering of the small class ruined or injured by this plague a drop in the ocean to the normal and regular suffering of a large class at the base of English society, who have never known what it is like to possess a cow, much less to lose one? If we are to humiliate ourselves, and feel bowed down in heart because a few thousand farmers, graziers, and drovers, are suffering bitterly, what are we to say to the chronic misery of our paupers, to the deep-dyed chronic sins of every great city and every agricultural parish? We have no humiliation days for these—none for hurricanes which make thousands into widows and orphans in an hour—and yet we make this small pecuniary calamity a special subject for humiliation and prayer."

Many of the clergy brought up the old doctrine of "judgments," and went so far as to attribute the cattle plague to some special sins committed by the people. The Dean of Westminster, however, rebuked this barbarism in a fitting manner. "The nations of Europe," he said, "on whom this cattle plague has fallen are not to be thought on that account sinners above the rest of Europe; the counties of England and Scotland which have suffered most from this grievous pestilence are not therefore sinners above the rest of Great Britain; the individuals on whom it has fallen with greatest severity are not therefore greater sinners than those who have altogether escaped." And the Bishop of London, in the same spirit, took for his text—"Or those eighteen on whom the tower of Siloam fell and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem? I tell you nay." It rested, however, for a Worcestershire clergyman—a Mr. Crawford—to bestow the most scathing rebuke on "the day of humiliation" advocates—"Bishops and all. After picturing the object of true humiliation, he says—"Shall they use the holy office of prayer for what? To pray for growth in grace, for nearer conformity to the image of the Redeemer here in saintly suffering and self-denial, hereafter in eternal glory—for ampler participation in the Bread which cometh down from heaven, that we may eat thereof and not die? No! But to pray to their Heavenly Father that He will be graciously pleased to spare the lives of their fellow-creatures (for the same God made us both), not to relieve the sufferings of these poor beasts, for those sufferings the framers of our prayer seem to regard as beneath their notice—but that God will be pleased to spare their lives, that upon their bodies our carnivorous appetite may be more fully gorged—that He will condescend more abundantly to supply the shambles, and suffer not the victims of the pole-axe to decrease! Such spiritual prayers will doubtless be matched, in due season, by equally spiritual thanksgivings! When the disease has run its destined course, and our cattle once more abound, I suppose men heedless of God's greater mercies—heedless, comparatively at least of the means of grace, and of the hope of glory, will assemble once more to thank Him that He has given them their hearts' desire—that, meat being once more abundant, they are not disappointed of their lust; and their psalm of thanksgiving, no doubt will be to the tune of "O, the Roast Beef of Old England." Come not into their Assembly, O my soul! If, indeed, we were suffering such horrors as one reads of as occurring in an Irish or an Indian famine—if thousands were perishing around us in the direst extremities of hunger, then, doubtless there would be Dignus vindice nodus, and we might well humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and beseech Him to sustain the lives which, for high and holy purposes, He had given. But what is the fact? There is likely to be a scarcity of beef, and are we—we, who pretend to self-denying, holy, Christian men—are we such mere Beef-eaters as to make this a subject of solemn prayer and humiliation before God? Why really (the weaker brethren may think what I am about to say unseemly in this sacred place, but I deem nothing unseemly which best expresses the sentiments I feel it my duty to convey to you), really all this humiliation about beef puts me in mind of a horrible case of destitution recorded in a well known periodical, and illustrated by the figure of an alderman begging. On his portly person is displayed a placard, inscribed with the touching tale of his distress—I have not tasted turtle these three days."

It is astonishing what mockeries and what shams still disport themselves in high places, and how the earthly desires of men are laid by some clerical hands on the footstool of the Creator. But probably the worst feature in this day of humiliation is the gross ignorance or hypocrisy of men attributing, as a sort of "special dispensation," an event just as natural in its way as the falling of rain. The ignorance of the past put down every scourge to the wickedness of man, and every discipline it by prayer; the enlightenment of the present sees a cause for most calamities, and instead of crying to Jupiter endeavors to remove the evil. If cholera or fever threatens, the wise men and the good men instead of praying to avert the calamity, attend to nature's laws and look carefully after the sanitary regulations. If the cause of the cattle plague and its cure are still wrapped in obscurity that only argues an imperfect knowledge of the disease—just as might have been evinced at one time of small-pox. But science will soon unravel the mystery, and the cattle plague will cease to call for special humiliations. Nobody thinks now of praying for rain, or for heat or for cold, because it is known that the natural laws have given each a place which cannot be set aside. It may well be said, therefore, that this prayer against a rise in beef "is just as objectionable as a prayer against a fall in the funds," and as demoralizing "as that of a man who should pray for the odd trick at whist." Nothing can be more detrimental to true religion than this fastening superstition to the observance of public worship. The mischief is not even confined to religion—it tends, by attempting to shift responsibilities, which ought to rest on man, to the Creator, to destroy a nation's self-reliance, and to retard the progress of scientific investigation. It does even more—it accepts poverty and crime and wretchedness as things over which man has no control—evils for which the Government of the country are not in the slightest degree accountable—and believes that the duty of every pious person in this respect is performed when he prays that the pains of destitution may be alleviated. We would be very sorry, as we would be wrong, to say that this system of theology is maintained by all ministers of religion; for we know some of the most enlightened and active workers in the cause of moral and physical reform in Great Britain are preachers of the Gospel; but it is a lamentable fact nevertheless that the fallacies to which we have drawn attention are shared in by no insignificant class of the clerical body in the mother country.

THE CONDITION OF EUROPE. The news from Europe is more and more indicative of war. Monetary affairs are everywhere depressed, and there appears to be a general feeling of uneasiness in commercial circles. This is really the true test of the political atmosphere. Berlin may bluster and Vienna retaliate, but so long as the funds remain in their normal condition, or the money markets generally show no unusual sensitiveness, there is no great danger. Money is the great barometer, and when we see the disturbed condition of the European continent affecting it in the manner stated in the telegrams, we may conclude that diplomatic notes are rapidly giving way to missives of a more dangerous character. The condition of Central Europe is precarious in the extreme. While we have a Congress sitting to settle the difficulties evoked by the recent revolution in Bucharest—while Russia and Austria are by the exile of Prince Couza brought into a kind of quasi-antagonism—for Russia is doing her utmost to get the Duke of Leuchtenburg appointed Hoepodar of the Principality—we have the quarrel between Prussia and Austria wrought up to a fever point, and Italy assuming a warlike attitude towards the Government of Vienna. Never since the days of the First Napoleon have there been such a series of complications. If Russia gains her point in the Principality she will have the Black Sea pretty much to herself and Austria will have received a most vital blow; and if Austria goes to war with Prussia she is almost certain to be attacked by Italy on the score of Venetia. If she does

not go to war with Prussia, then she will have to give up her plunder in the Danish campaign, and stand outraged, humiliated, and degraded in the eyes of Europe. The action of the Prussian authorities has left no option. Berlin issues decrees affecting both Schleswig and Holstein. The Prussian King declares that any person in either of the Duchies who shall openly support the claims of Prince Augustenburg—the gentleman for whom the war was really in the first instance waged—shall be punished. Considering that Holstein is under Austrian domination—that her soldiers garrison the place—the Emperor of Austria thinks his royal brother rather fast in issuing decrees affecting persons living under his rule, and tells the Court at Berlin as much. The Prussian monarch, however, has an eye on Holstein, and thinks that it should form an integral part of Prussia with Schleswig—that in fact Austria does not deserve any of the Danish spoils at all—and putting on indignant airs, he increases his army and sends off corps of observation to the Austrian frontier. Austria follows suit, and has at this moment the enormous army of 600,000 men in the field. As some of these threaten the Italian frontier, and as Victor Emanuel seems to be only awaiting his opportunity to seize Venetia, he puts the Italian army on a warlike footing, and the navy is at once despatched to threaten Austrian ports. Here we have, then, four powers all in active eruption, and principally on the score of aggrandizement. It is said that Prussia and Italy are on the best of terms, and that Austria is menaced from all quarters—that in fact she has no friends. It is unsafe, however, for Prussia to make such a calculation; Louis Napoleon is still the ambitious Emperor, and French destiny about the Rhine may culminate yet in a Savoy annexation. The situation is thus tersely described by the Spectator: "The King and Minister of Prussia have both pledged themselves very deeply to their people that they will keep the Duchies. Both are men who, except under overpowering necessity, will be apt to keep their word, the Premier because he is deliberately offering aggrandizement as the preferable alternative of freedom, the King because he has with the capacity of a sergeant-major also his conscience, the conscience which repudiates falsehood except when it serves a visible military end. They will retain the Duchies unless expelled by force, and if they retain them will retain also the potential sovereignty of Northern Germany. Mecklenburg and the Hesses do not intend to fight. Hanover is saturated with Prussian feeling. The Free Towns, and the Saxons, and the Wurttembergers are powerless in the face of the Prussian army encamped among them, and if the Duchies are successfully annexed Germany north of the Maine is lost to the Kaiser for ever. That is a heavy stake, and that is not all. The Emperor of Austria loses not only that visionary throne for which his race have for five centuries sacrificed all, their souls included, but will have shaken his hold over his patrimonial domain, will have shown to Hungary that resistance wins the concessions never granted to reason, and will have warned Italy that every hour now lost is an hour of opportunity. He will not risk so fearful a shock to the prestige of centuries, will rather encounter the war which ever since 1815 his family expected. Unless the Continental press is in a conspiracy of lying, he has accepted the alternative, and is arming fast. A great army has been collected on the Northern frontier, with Marshal Benedek, a fighting soldier, in command. An Archduke has been despatched to protect the Southern frontier. Croatia, Transylvania, and other provinces of the same kind, in which the garrison is usually heavy, but which can be left without soldiers, have been denuded of troops, all on their march towards the northern counties. The treasury is poor, but the needful commissariat has been provided. All Southern Austria has been informed that a requisition for horses is within the bounds of possibility. All furloughs have been recalled, and all editors have been warned that the movements of troops are now among the closest secrets of the State. These things mean war, and we confess—always with the proviso that the lying is not unusually portentous,—we see no escape from the belief that sooner than suffer Prussian dictation in Holstein, sooner indeed than see Northern Germany absorbed in Prussia, the Hapsburgs will fight, will fight now, and will fight hard. If they are compelled to fight, we are in presence of another European war of which no man now living can predict the end or the duration—a war which will probably engage Italians and Danes, Frenchmen and Turks, which will make widows in Sicily as well as Zealand, and leave as many children fatherless in France as in Hungary or Brandenburg."

For BIG BEND—Amongst a number leaving to-day for the Big Bend are Mr. Harris, late Mayor of Victoria, and Mr. J. T. Scott. We wish the former may return at the close of the season with his weight in gold, and we wish the latter may bring back twice his weight.—Columbian.

The Coal Discoveries at Sooke!

THREE GOOD BEAMS FOUND. Captain Nagle and Mr. Mohun, civil engineer, who returned on Wednesday from Sooke, confirm the brief announcement made in yesterday's COLONIST of great coal discoveries having been made on the former gentleman's property in Sooke Harbor. These gentlemen report that three seams of coal are visible running north and south, and cropping out to the water's edge within a few feet of five or six fathoms anchorage. They inspected two of the seams, and broke off the specimens brought by them to town. These specimens were examined yesterday by practical men and other competent judges, and pronounced to be highly promising bituminous coal for outcroppings. The samples taken from one seam, which is two feet thick at the surface, so closely resemble Nanaimo coal as to be scarcely distinguishable to the casual observer. Those taken from the other seam, which is four feet thick, are said to resemble good Welsh coal, and pronounced to indicate a valuable seam of a quality at present unknown on the Island. On Saturday the Sir James Douglas will proceed to Sooke, taking Mr. Nichol of Nanaimo, who goes to inspect the seams, accompanied by Dr. Tolmie, Hon. D. Fraser, C. W. Wallace, Esq., and other gentlemen. Captain Thorn was shown the samples of coal, which are to be seen at Mr. Backus' store, before leaving yesterday, and stated his intention of sending up an engineer to report upon the coal on behalf of the Steam Navigation Company. We trust that the discovery may lead to good results and make the fortunes of all concerned.

OCEAN TELEGRAPH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir,—Little has been heard of late, as to what progress (if any) the Hudson Bay Co. are making with the proposed undertaking, of putting a telegraph across the continent, on British territory. If the work were indeed finished, and the line in working order, it would not be likely to pay working expenses at present, as it would in a manner be isolated from, and in opposition to the present lines of American telegraph to this place. There is however little doubt, but that such a line between this and the east if connected with an ocean telegraph line between Victoria, China and India via the Sandwich Islands, would be an enterprise which would pay the shareholders handsomely, and make Victoria a great focal point for telegrams to all parts of the world.

By glancing at a map of the Pacific ocean, it will be readily seen what a number of Islands are scattered through the whole extent of the southern Pacific, to Australia, India and China, which would serve as so many stepping stones, in a great system of ocean telegraphs, encircling all parts of the Pacific ocean in one bond of electric communication.

As Vancouver Island is several hundred miles nearer to India, China and Australia, than any other point of the continent one can see how Victoria is destined some day to be the centre of such a system as I have referred to.

No doubt within 2 or 3 years, ocean cables will be much improved in many respects, that ponderous snake like coil, must give way to a light and handy cable, which can be easily stored on board ship and as easily paid out, and handled. There is no reason that a cable consisting of 3 small copper wires, the whole not to exceed 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch in diameter, interwoven with some textile fabric, and covered properly with some substance to resist the action of the salt water, would not answer all purposes as well as the ponderous iron clad cable now in use. A gentleman named McLoutch has brought such a system of telegraphs before the British public, and that system is likely to prove a complete success, as by the adoption of such a system, ocean telegraphs will be of easy accomplishment, and the cost will be reduced to a fraction of the present expense. R. ALPHARON.

An Editor in a Flight.

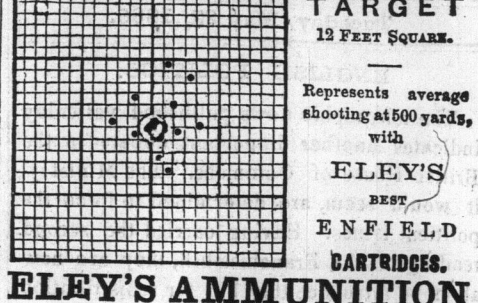
The editor of the Salt Lake Vedette has received a letter written in blood—or red ink—which reads—"Skedadlee. It is the "red hand" of the Destroying Angels, and threatens assassination. The editor is not much frightened by the order, but says: "Well, we shall keep the document, and leave our readers to judge whether we are much frightened. Think these miserable hounds and cut-throats think they can intimidate the Vedette, why they are simply mistaken. We have spoken plainly in the past, and we shall still speak more plainly in the future, holding ourselves accountable only to God, our conscience, and the laws of the land." The following day the editor received another warning, of which he says: "We stop the press to give place the following: "Now" as the lark said to the young ones, "it is time for us to leave!" We could stand the "bloody hand" and the "skedadlee" of the warnings, but the following gets us. Just count us out!

SALT LAKE CITY, April 9th. MR. EDITOR VEDETTE: If you don't quit abusing Stenhouse and the Mormons, we'll come and marry you. We don't "mean blood" but we won't stand to have Stenhouse maligned; so you look out.

27 MORMON WOMEN. We weaken on the turn. Will some one take our place? "27 Mormon Women!" Phew! We apologize. We don't edit the Vedette—Stenhouse is a good fellow—a brave man—and he can look a dog in the face! Besides, he never did borrow a pair of brass knuckles. "27 M—!" "O Lord have mercy upon us miserable sinners!" Don't shoot this way! We are not the man! 27 wives! We'll go!

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS for week ending Saturday, May 12th—Duties \$8,006 89; harbor dues \$97 92; head money \$153; tonnage dues \$476 99; inland navigation licenses \$241. Total \$8,975 80. Number of passengers 153.—Columbian.

AMMUNITION.



12 FEET SQUARE. Represents average shooting at 500 yards, with ELEY'S BEST ENFIELD CARTRIDGES. ELEY'S AMMUNITION of every description for Sporting or Military Purposes, Double Waterproof Central Fire Caps, Felt Waddings to prevent the leading of Guns, Wire Cartridges for killing Game, &c., at long distances, Breech Loading Cartridge Cases of superior quality for Shot Guns and Rifles, Pin Cartridges for "Lefauchaux" Revolvers of 7, 9, and 12 millimetres. Jacobs' Rifle Shell Tubes, Cartridges and Caps for Colts', Deane's, Tranter's, Adams', and other Revolvers.

BALL CARTRIDGES For Enfield Rifles, also for Westley Richard's, Terry's, Wilson's, Mont Storm's, Green's, and other breech-loaders. Bullets of uniform weight made by compression from soft Rolled Lead. Mechanically fitting projectiles for Rigby's and Henry's Rifles. ELEY BROTHERS, Gray's-Inn-Rd., London, W.C. Wholesale Only.

Any one can use Them. A basin of water is all that is required to produce the most brilliant and fashionable colours on Silks, Woollens, Cottons, Ribbons, &c., in ten minutes, by the use of

Judson's Simple Dyes. Ten colours, Price 1s. 6d. 2s. 6d., and 5s. per bottle. These Dyes will also be found useful for imparting colour to Feathers, Fibres, Grasses, Seaweed, Ivory, Bone, Wood, Willow Shavings, Paper, and for Tinting Photographs, and for Illuminating. May be had of all chemists throughout the United Kingdom and British Colonies. WHOLESALE DEPOT—13a, Coleman St., London W.C.

BIG BEND!

To Miners and Travellers. THE "FRENCH PRAIRIE HOUSE," 12 MILES ABOVE SHUSWAP LAKE. on the Government Trail to Columbia river is ready for the accommodation of travellers. Miners wishing to carry their supplies to the mines will find there a very large and well-selected stock of Goods, Provisions, Tools, Clothing, and Liquors. Good chance to save one day's hard packing. at 2m daw January 26th, 1866. D. FAUJAS.

THE BEST REMEDY FOR INDIGESTION, &c.

NORTON'S CAMOMILE PILLS. A RECOMMENDATION as a simple but certain remedy for indigestion. They act as a powerful tonic and gentle aperient; are mild in their operation; safe under any circumstances; and thousands of persons can now bear testimony to the benefits derived from their use. Sold in bottles at 1s., 2s., 2s. 6d., and 11s. each, by Chemists, Druggists and Storekeepers in all parts of the World. *Orders to be made payable London Houses. de23 law Agent for Victoria, W. M. SEARBY, Chemist, Government street.

GEMS OF GERMAN SONG.

A collection of the most BEAUTIFUL VOCAL COMPOSITIONS OF Beethoven, Von Weber, Mendelssohn, Abt, Schubert, Kucken, Gumbert, Reichardt, Krebs, Spohr, Groch, Keller, and others, With Accompaniments for the Pianoforte. The above work forms a new volume of the popular class of Music Books known as the "Home Circle Series," comprising "The Home Circle," "The Silver Chord," "The Shower of Pearls," and "Operatic Pearls."—Bound in uniform style and sold at the same prices, viz.—Plain, 8s.; Cloth 8s. 6d. Oliver Ditson & Co., Publishers, 227 Washington street, Boston. For sale by Hibben & Carswell and Waitt & Co. Booksellers, Victoria, V. I. ce25

Pure Drugs, Chemicals, &c.

BURGOYNE & BURBIDGES EXPORT DRUGGISTS, COLEMAN ST. LONDON. Publish monthly a Prices Current of nearly 3,000 Drugs, Chemicals, Pharmaceutical, and Photographic Preparation, Patent Medicines, Surgical Instruments, &c., and every description of Medical Sundries. This is the most complete list ever published, and will be forwarded every month, FREE OF ALL CHARGE, upon application. *As the latest fluctuations of the market are always noted, this List is invaluable to Chemists, Druggists, Storekeepers, and Surgeons. 1427

"Singing All Day Long."

Merry Chimes; The new and Popular Music Book for the Young Folks. At School, at Home, and Abroad. by the author of "The Golden Wreath" is meeting with an unprecedented sale. Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand of the "Wreath" were sold, and the prospect is that a larger number of the "Chimes" will be called for. Price of the "Chimes" 60 cts. Oliver Ditson & Co., Publishers, Boston. For sale by HIBBEN & CARSWELL and WAITT & CO., Booksellers, V. I. ce28

LANEUS. 14.—Mayor Monroe day with interesting... as were contributing of Albert Sydney John... in California. Mexico confirm the death of Ex-Governor... and was released... May 14.—It is autho... here, as a result of late visit, that Presi... the surgeon of the report on the health of... The Scotia sailed 00 specie. The Kan... 70,000 specie. Warehose at Brook... a large amount buildings destroyed... amount not estimated... no news; deaths... ured in the hospital... the Virginia and... REVISORS. THE BRITISH COLONIST... perfections, and they Estate Tax Act con... if acted upon by... to lessen the mone... felt just now by all... ment officials. The... this: If, owing to... ravage on the part... of property declines... required to pay the... five proposes no pub... the same proportion... said salaries become... wholesome lesson is... be. The Governor... and the key resta... nishment to the col... undertakes to pay... portion to the popu... of this small place... is discontinued, no... and the fund upon... of Colonial Secretary... their salaries this... short; and the Treas... public "that the... be charged with the... of the lands, in... revenue being in... er years apparently... best discharge the... levying the heaviest... for each property... actual insolvency—a... y contributed to the... in the value of pro... and improved... the owner as... is capability of em... w on the contrary... the Revisors should... ment and the peo... position or in... and affixing the... ful cases. Nothing uncharitable... for his employers... dives his hand as... and mine as the... numerous have been... ar of residents come... most cases on this... tle difficulty in ar... of years purchase... on the ruling rate... adopted. On this... here, from one to... per month, the num... of the rental should... ar that inasmuch... have no market... of the Act of 1860... for instance a lot... which cannot be... cessed separately at... building not at all... nish the enterprising... building which at... value, and to place... tion than a non-... beside. Numerous... suggest themselves... o suburban lands... no other effect than... the means of sm... impoverishes both... eyes of this small... tively turned upon... their desire Victoria... anem and Pompei... that eminent show... earnestly suggest... sis in your mind in... alue, when drawing... draw it mild." a visit from my... subscribe myself... PROPERTY OWNER. LICENSING. BRITISH COLONIST... ed by you, as adjut... yesterday morn... extraordinary that has... yet! Mr. Hank... first figure—he is... for to carry"—as he... for himself, he is... for Hankin is never... gully to be comm... in a small way... be set on fire but... old not spare a man... why? Yes, why... to enter into ar... ture with a name... oy—yes that is the... in his mouth. But... Mr. Welsh is be... Lyons, rather a... portfolio. I have... day upon licensing... s Birthday, for a... ke the hindmost. WATCHMAN.

ENGLISH POLITICS.

The telegraphic news published yesterday indicates another important debate in the British House of Commons. The Ministry, it would seem, are determined to force the political issues. Having carried the second reading of the Franchise bill, they are now about to introduce the bill for redistribution of seats. For the first time since the repeal of the Corn laws England has got a Government determined to stand or fall on the great questions of political principles—the welfare and happiness of the people. We have often-times had Ministries clinging boldly to questions of foreign policy, in which the interests of the great bulk of the population were not in the remotest degree concerned, but nothing has been rarer in modern English history than to see the Government of the country espouse the cause of those who have no means of making their voice heard, and in espousing such a cause, risking their own Ministerial existence. When the question of reform was first mooted after the general election, there was a very wide-spread feeling that the Government would shirk the issue; and every species of political trickery was used to compel Gladstone to forego the scheme. At first the plan was ridiculed, then it was denounced as dangerous to the constitution, and lastly it was opposed on the ground of its being imperfect. The Conservatives worked against it to a man, and the eccentric or aristocratic Liberals showed an equal degree of antagonism. It was not, however, until the great house of Grosevor had thrown its weight into the scale that the Opposition looked threatening. Then the days of the Government were numbered. The richest family in England, and a Whig family too, had decided against the measure. It was all to no purpose, however, Gladstone and Russell stood firm; they were not to be terrified, and their boldness has carried them through. The great Whig families and the great Tory families, the powerful and the wealthy, have been beaten, and the Ministry have emerged victorious out of one of the greatest contests that have taken place during the present century. At this distance from the scene of events, the subject is apt to lose its interest, and it is difficult for us to enter into that spirit which must have agitated the English people; but it is not difficult for us to consider that a battle gained against such odds is a great moral as well as political triumph. It shows us that the days of family influence are rapidly on the wane—that principle is gradually ousting principal, and that the interests of the least pretentious portions of the community are beginning to claim their share of Ministerial attention.

Mr. Gladstone has, however, another battle to fight, and one that will cause more political bitterness than even the extension of the franchise. In the bill which he was to have introduced on the 7th instant, for the redistribution of seats, he will be brought into collision with nearly all the members for small constituencies; for the only just redistribution will be to take members away from insignificant places and add them to the large commercial and manufacturing towns that are now but half represented. No measure could be more dangerous, and it was to force the Ministry to bring this scheme forward with the extension of the franchise that Earl Grosvenor introduced the amendment declaring it inexpedient to discuss the franchise bill until the whole plan had been laid before the House. The opponents of the Government on the Reform question hoped by this manoeuvre to defeat the bill, as they calculated very naturally that all those whose seats would be threatened—whether Liberal or Conservative—would vote against it. The Ministry were, however, not to be caught. They desired to raise but one issue at a time, and now having won the first trick they are prepared to act boldly in the second. As we have said, the measure is an exceedingly dangerous one, and we shall look forward with much interest and curiosity to the unfolding of the scheme. Whatever may be its immediate effect on the Government supporters, of one thing we feel assured—any proper redistribution of the representation will add largely to the Liberal side, and in a corresponding degree reduce the strength of the Conservatives. As a general rule the Conservatives represent the small constituencies, and the Liberals the large ones. The manufacturing towns and the commercial towns, which are pretty certain to have additional representation, are nearly all Liberal, in most cases even of an ultra character. It is therefore quite clear, whatever change the extension of the franchise may make in political parties, the redistribution of seats on a sound and just basis will affect the Conservatives almost hopelessly.

On the 19th, the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred dined at the Garrick Club with a small party of its members, as the guests of Mr. Brashear, their old tutor. Fifteen sat down to dinner. Mr. Edward Lloyd, known to Westminster scholars as "College John," has met his death from the effects of a street accident. He was crossing Abingdon street on the 17th, when he was run over by a cab.

By Electric Telegraph.

SPECIAL TO THE BRITISH COLONIST.

From British Columbia.

BY COLLINS' OVERLAND TELEGRAPH.

LATER FROM BIG BEND.

All the Creeks being Staked Off.

YALE, May 14—The British Columbian Tribune of to-day says: From Mr. Williams, who arrived here on Saturday evening last direct from McCulloch's Creek, we have the following further information from the mines. Our informant, who is a miner, left McCulloch's Creek on the 2nd inst., and is on his way to New Westminster for medical treatment. He reports about 3000 men spread over the mines, although the current report places the number at 5000. All the ground on French, McCulloch, and Camp Creeks is staked off, and many persons who have gone in lately have been disappointed in getting claims on these celebrated creeks. Two shafts have been sunk forty feet deep each on McCulloch Creek without reaching bed-rock. Little difficulty has been encountered in getting down so far. There has been no water to contend with, and the sinking has been chiefly through gravel. Mr. Williams is a partner in one of the companies, and he entertains the greatest confidence that the result of the prospecting will be highly satisfactory. The indications of gold were very good up to the time our informant left. Mr. O'Reilly had arrived at the mines, and was paying the different creeks a visit before he would determine upon the place where he would locate. Mr. Williams confirms the report that very little mining had been done on any of the creeks, on account of the snow, but preparations for commencing were actively going forward. Some parties who had arrived, looked round for a few days, and were talking about returning. The place will be well rid of such characters.

LAUNCH—We have the pleasure of informing our readers that the Hudson Bay Co.'s steamer Marten was launched on the 10th inst., and she is now at Savanna's Ferry getting in the machinery. It is expected that she will be making her first trip across the lakes at the time agreed upon with the Government. The Company are deserving of praise for the expedition they have manifested in getting the steamer ready.

BIG BEND TRAVEL.

HORR, May 15—A letter lately received here from Colville states that the travel to Big Bend by way of the Columbia river had nearly ceased, and the supposition was that the miners were all going up by the Fraser route. All the Indians in this vicinity are making preparations to proceed to New Westminster to celebrate the Queen's birthday. It has been raining here for several days, and the river has risen 12 feet above its lowest level. The snow is rapidly disappearing from the mountains, and spring appears to have set in in good earnest.

CLINTON, May 16—The case of Waldon vs O'Reilly for \$3,500, came off on the 11th at Lillooet. After some witnesses were examined the Court in reply to plaintiff's counsel, stated that if a verdict was given for plaintiff it would be set aside, as the evidence was insufficient to prove Bertrimo to have been deputy sheriff with defendant's knowledge.

Great indignation manifested in Lillooet. It is reported that a petition to establish a Court of appeal, will be got up. Weather fine. Great quantity of freight going up.

(From the Columbian)

QUEENSWORTH, May 15, 9:30 p.m.—The steamer Enterprise arrived from Soda Creek this evening with about fifty passengers, half of them Celestials.

The telegraph construction party started out last Saturday, under the immediate superintendence of Mr. Conroy. It is expected they will be able to clear and build three to four miles per day.

Nothing new from the creek. The weather during the last three days has been very changeable with high winds.

LYTTON, May 15, 9:50 p.m.—Mr. Coxon arrived here this evening.

The Filibustering Company, on Bridge river, took out ten ounces for two days' washing.

The crops look better this spring than Mr. Coxon has seen them at any time, and every one is making great improvements.

Lillooet is looking more lively than it has done for some time, as money is plentiful.

Nothing new at Lytton. Weather cold and wet.

Later from Europe.

THE REFORM BILL CARRIED.

Majority of 5 for Government.

Austria and Prussia.

War threatened between Austria and Italy.

[CONTINUATION OF SATURDAY'S REPORT.]

Owing to defection in the Liberal ranks and from the unseating of several Liberals for election bribery, the opposition journals assert that there will be an actual majority against the bill.

letters from the foreign office in its announcement on the 21st of the withdrawal of the Ministers from Berlin and Vienna.

The attitude of Austria and Italy continues menacing. The concentration of Italian troops at Bologna caused Austria to take precautionary measures.

A Berlin telegram says the report of a treaty of alliance between Prussia and Italy is absolutely unfounded. The rumor of the proposed treaty and consequent engagement near Roverigo proved false.

A Florence journal says the Austrian Government had ordered all land and naval forces at Vienna to be placed on a war footing by the 1st May, and an extra concentration of troops was to take place in the Province of Regina.

The Vienna Press, it is said, has addressed a circular to the Prussian and other courts informing them that Austrian armaments are rendered necessary by the proceedings of the Italian Government. Deputies add that Austria, relying upon the word of the Prussian King, considers any measures of defence against Prussia unnecessary.

It is asserted that the Emperor of France had declared to Italy that he will in no way assist Italy in case of attack.

LONDON, April 27—The latest news from Germany is that Prussia objects to disarming while Austria continues her army of observation on the Italian frontier.

HALIFAX, May 7—The steamer China arrived with dates to April 29th.

The steamer Pocahontas arrived at Liverpool on the 22nd April with the passengers of the City of Washington, which, having disabled her machinery, returned to Liverpool under sail.

The Reform Bill passed the House of Commons by five of a majority.

Germany is conflicting.

There is considerable uneasiness in regard to the relations of Austria and Italy, the latter appearing to have warlike intentions.

LONDON, April 25th, evening—Consols, 86½@86¾; 5-20's, 69½@70¼.

NEW YORK, May 7—in the House of Commons, April 26th, the debate on the Reform Bill continued. Disraeli made a long speech. At eight o'clock in the morning a division took place, the vote for the bill being 318 against 313—Government majority 5. The papers generally regard the vote as a Government victory only in name, but really as a defeat.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

The Reform Bill—Redistribution of Seats Ministry will Stand or Fall—Warlike appearances in Europe—The German Question—Austria and Italy—Return of Jamaica Commissioners—Police Officer Shot by Fenians.

NEW YORK, May 12—The City of Paris and Germania bring advices to May 3d.

Contrary to general expectation, the British Ministry refused to regard the close vote on the Reform Bill as equivalent to defeat. Gladstone announced in the House of Commons that a franchise bill for redistributing seats would be introduced on the 7th, and that both would be considered together. In answer to an inquiry as to whether the Government would stand by the bill he replied, "as long as the bill stands we stand, if it falls, we fall." Liberals say the issue is now plain; Liberal members must now face the simple question without the protection of an evasive amendment.

The Jamaica Commissioners have arrived home. Nothing is officially made known as to their report. The Times anticipates it will justify martial law, but not insure subsequent proceedings.

A police constable has been shot in Dublin by Fenians.

The German question continues warlike. Both Austria and Italy are decidedly menacing. Both governments declare aggressive designs, but are represented to be vigorously preparing for war. The Italian parliament promptly voted an authority to government to raise means for the defence of the country. Popular meetings have been held at Naples in favor of government and warlike enthusiasm prevails throughout Italy in view of war. It is asserted that the Italian Government had called out 150,000 men.

The Austrian force in Venetia is 160,000. A Florence correspondent of the London Press says there can be no doubt that the Italian Government desires war as the only means of extrication from an exceedingly false and difficult situation. Austrian and Prussian relations show no improvement. A Berlin despatch talks of the probability of an increased armament by Prussia.

In London funds and securities were depressed.

Napoleon presided at a special council of the Ministry, April 30th, to consider the Austrian proposal that Austria and Italy should simultaneously disarm. One rumor says it was determined at the meeting to prevent Italy from taking the offensive and to insist on the adoption of the proposition.

The following is the very latest news by the City of Paris telegraphed to Queenstown under date Liverpool, 3d: Intelligence from Germany and Italy continues exciting, armaments are being vigorously pressed forward. The Italian fleet had left Genoa, destination unknown; the Austrian ironclads are said to have received orders to put to sea, destination believed to be Africa.

A telegram from Berlin says the reply of the Austrian Government to the last Prussian dispatch states that Austria was to withdraw into the interior the troops now on the Prussian frontier, but will at the same time continue her armaments against Italy. The Prussian troops on the frontier are said to have advanced near the Austrian territory. An unauthenticated rumor in Vienna says Austria intends to propose a European Congress. Rumors of a ministerial crisis were current at Vienna.

The Saxon Minister of Foreign Affairs, it is said, returned "an evasive answer" to a Prussian summons to disarm.

A Berlin telegram of May 1st says: It is believed that Prussian armaments will shortly be increased. A reply dated April 29th, to the Austrian Government, has been sent to the Prussian Ambassador at Vienna stating that Prussia does not agree to the Vienna Cabinet's proposals in reference to duties;

it lays especial stress on the community of interests of Prussia and Italy, and gives an evasive answer to Austria's proposal for disarmament. No immediate rupture between Austria and Prussia however is expected, as Austria will submit the proposals to the Federal Diet, but affairs continue critical.

The Vienna Press of the 1st states that negotiations between the Prussian Cabinet and a special envoy from Italy continue. The official Vienna Gazette publishes a notice that an increased number of army sergeants will be required. In a circular dispatch, Gen. Lamar states that the moment when the disarmament of Austria and Prussia was expected Italy saw herself directly menaced by Austria who increased her armaments, and gave them in Venetia an overtly hostile character towards us, therefore it became indispensable for the security of the kingdom that both our land and sea forces should be increased without delay. In taking military measures required for the defence of the country, the Government only acted in accordance with the state of things existing in Austria.

A Florence telegram says a proclamation has been issued by a Minister of War calling to arms the soldiers who are on unlimited furlough.

A Mexican officer had arrived at Vienna on a special mission; he bore letters from Maximilian, the purport of which is unknown.

EASTERN NEWS.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

WASHINGTON, May 9—The Department of State has been officially informed by the Spanish Government that the local products of Chile declared contraband by the Spanish Admiral will only be considered contraband when being dispatched from Chilean ports for enemy's ships.

LAND PATENTS.

The Commissioners of the General Land Office during the month of April issued patents for California claims amounting to 67,639 acres: for Oregon patents covering 37,587 acres.

FAILURE OF THE NATIONAL MERCHANTS BANK.

Government loses about half a million by the failure of the Merchants' Bank.

The bank received \$762,312 of Government funds, of which \$369,184 were deposited between 20th of April and 3d of May, when the bank failed. Beyer & Co., of Baltimore, owed the bank \$750,000, and their failure has involved at least four Baltimore banks in heavy loss; one of them, name not reported, loses \$390,000, another \$100,000, besides there are private individuals who lose less sums. The Government officer investigating the matter thinks the Government will not realize \$50,000 from assets from the Merchants' Bank, exclusive of the \$100,000 held as security for Government deposits. This failure will probably revolutionize the system of using national banks as public depositories.

MILITARY INSPECTION ON THE PACIFIC.

General Rufus Ingalls is ordered on an inspecting tour of the military posts in the Pacific States and Territories.

DISFRANCHISING REBELS.

WASHINGTON, May 11—There was an informal meeting of a good many Republican Senators and Representatives to-day to see if some action could not be taken in the Senate to strike out the 3d section of the constitutional amendment, which disfranchises rebels from voting for Federal officers.

THE CAPTURE OF FORT GOODWIN.

The reported capture of Fort Goodwin, Arizona, excites comment, and Captain J. Ross Brown, the well known traveller, now here, makes a statement showing that the report is highly improbable. [A later despatch confirms the capture.—Ed.]

TRUE BILL AGAINST JEFF. DAVIS.

NEW YORK, May 11—A letter from Norfolk says District Attorney Chandler had received from Washington the indictment against Jefferson Davis, which he would lay before the Grand Jury. Mr. Davis, who will remain at Fortress Monroe until his case is finally disposed of by trial or pardon, is making arrangements to keep house inside the fort. Meanwhile she visited Norfolk to purchase supplies, when people showered upon her presents of all kinds and showed an active sympathy in her behalf.

NORFOLK, Va., May 11—Late yesterday afternoon the Grand Jury of the Circuit Court brought in a true bill against Jefferson Davis for treason, and the court adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in June at Richmond. Judge Waterwood went North last night, carrying a copy of the indictment.

THE FENIANS—STEPHENS ARRIVES AT NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, May 11—Stephens, the Fenian head centre, arrived yesterday. Various plans are being made for public demonstrations which shall kindle the snow Fenian fires, dampened by the Eastport force and personal feuds. Colonel O'Mahony has resigned his position as head centre of the Fenians this morning, which was accepted by Chief Executive Stephens. Mr. Killian has been removed as Treasurer.

CHOLERA REPORTS.

The Quarantine Surgeon reports one new case of cholera. No deaths to-day in the hospital. City unusually healthy.

GONE EAST.

Judge Field and General McCook, Minister to the Sandwich Islands, sailed for San Francisco to-day.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 13—At 12 o'clock last night a fire broke out in the premises occupied by Marcus Levi, commission merchant, over Frank & Co.'s stationery store, Sacramento street. Goods greatly damaged by water.

The new rolling mills on Mission Creek, the first in the Pacific States, have commenced operations.

Deaths in the city last week 48.

Nothing later received from Arizona regarding the reported massacre at Fort Goodwin. It is believed to be false. Major John Barney and others, who were there quite recently, states there were four guard posts, besides the main fort or post, and that surprise was hardly possible.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12—A gentleman named Gilman, residing near Stockton, was robbed of \$5,000 worth of jewelry on the 9th March. Gilman had lived in Mazatlan several years, and returned with his wife a short time before the robbery. Mrs. Gilman was visited by a woman whose acquaintance she made in Mazatlan, known as Rosa Rodriguez. Suspicion was directed to her, and on Thursday Jerome Myers, chief of the Stockton Police, came to the city in search of her and found her on Jackson street. The first thing that attracted attention upon meeting her was one of the stolen rings which she was wearing. He then accused her of the robbery, and upon searching her found nearly all the precious stones, which had been removed from their settings, in a bag concealed under her skirts, also a lot of gold band setting, beaten up to avoid identification. Sufficient property, however, was found to fasten the robbery on her. Subsequently, her companion, giving the name of Theodor Padur, was arrested and some of the jewelry found on his person. Both parties were sent to Stockton yesterday.

Gold in New York on the 11th was 129; Legal Tenders, 78½@79.

Spring trade thus far has disappointed business men very generally.

Important from Chile.

BOMBARDMENT OF VALPARAISO!

Fifteen to Twenty Millions Property Destroyed!

City Nearly in Ruins.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 14—Golden City from Panama, 30th, with New York passengers, 21st, arrived this morning.

Valparaiso has been bombarded by the Spanish fleet and a good portion of the town laid in ruins. A letter to the Panama Herald says: On the 31st, the morning of the threatened bombardment, H.M. frigates Satelej and Leander with the Devastation and storeship Nerues left the bay and anchored outside. The American ships also had to leave; about 8 a.m. the enemy's vessels took a position against the town, the Resolution opposite the railway station, the Villa de Madrid and Blanco 1200 yards from the Custom House, the Venecuela close enough in to destroy the dwellings, and the ship Namancia remained out signalling orders. At 9 a.m. the Blanco opened on the Custom House and the others followed from each available point from which to pour destruction. Nearly three hours' fire was kept up without intermission; at 8 a.m. the squadron drew off. From fifteen to twenty millions of property were destroyed, nearly all belonging to English, American and other foreign merchants; all the commercial part of the city was destroyed, the Spanish admiral having received orders from Madrid to destroy to the utmost all Chilean and Peruvian towns on the coast. On March 27th he notified the foreign representatives that in four days he would bombard the city, every foreign representative protested in the most energetic manner. The British residents were promised the protection of the squadron. The American Commodore promptly placed his squadron for co-operation, should the threatened bombardment be attempted. The representative of France was equally ready to join to prevent atrocity; but at last the English Admiral withdrew and said that he could not interfere except diplomatically, that the British interests must look out for themselves on shore. Commodore Rodgers shrank from undertaking active assistance. While this was going on the town was lost to the neutrals. When the day of bombardment came all the property was still in the Custom House stores. The conduct of the British Admiral is loudly condemned by the English residents. One hundred and twenty-nine shots were fired.

Miscellaneous.

THE FORT GOODWIN MASSACRE CONFIRMED.

A private despatch says the widow of Thomas Starr King was married in New York on the 12th to William Norris, Secretary of the Steam Navigation Company.

The news of the Fort Goodwin massacre is confirmed. The garrison consisted of two companies of regulars, 3rd battalion 14th regiment, 100 men. Seven escaped; the remainder were murdered and scalped. The Apaches reaped a rich harvest, having carried off all arms, ammunition, and commissary stores.

NEW MINING JOURNAL.—Among our budget of exchanges received by last mail we find the American Journal of mining, milling, oil-boring, geology, mineralogy, metallurgy, etc., published by Messrs. Western & Co., 37 Park Row, New York, and edited by George Francis Dawson. This publication which is furnished to subscribers at the low figure of \$4 per annum, contains an epitome of the most valuable information on each of the above branches of science, besides treatises on manufactures, discoveries, inventions and various other interesting scientific subjects. The statistics and returns from different parts of the world which appear in the first number of the Journal furnish one of the most complete compendiums of the mining history of the American Continent and other parts of the globe that we have yet seen. British Columbia comes in for a large share of notice, the discoveries at Big Bend being given in extenso with the tables of distances and lars, showing the advantages of the Fraser over the Columbia River route. A detailed list of claims interesting to miners, millmen, metallurgists, oil-men and others, issued from the United States Patent Office will be given in each number. We can confidently recommend the Journal of Mining to miners and others on this coast.

THE BUOYS.—The survey of the Mouth of the Fraser has been completed, and H.M. gunboat Forward is about to take down the balance of the iron buoys and moor them.—Columbian.

YALE ROAD TOLLS.—The road tolls collected at Yale last week amounted to \$1,781, 69¢.—Columbian

A MODEST COU

There is something in cool daring impudence that wins of reluctant admiration. We really admire of our Legislature we believe, indeed, of all the institutions which the Home occasionally manufactures for progress of the colonies, our most intolerable; but that vent our awarding credit where due—giving our tribute of adm matchless impudence displayed; ell's proceedings of Monday last to the colony, on reading the discussion on the Sanitary Co would naturally infer that the Upper House were the warm champions of the City Council corporations generally—that the principle of self-government into ecstasies over a Mayor, denounced the idea of igno Council in the attempt on the p assembly to appoint a sanitary co asserted that the Corporation w body, one would have natura that the two Houses had chang that it was the Lower House Upper House that was endeavor away popular rights. But when narrowly into the subject, we Council not only as true to its instincts as ever, but laboring h dust in the people's eyes.

Every one knows the disgra of the Victoria Incorporation a the numerous attempts to rectifi and of the innumerable failures knows the blunder about incor land instead of the people, and of the collection of taxes; a knows that the City Council has last two or three years but the Council, dragging out a weary, interce. In order to place the authorities as soon as possible ceptionable position, and giv necessary powers, a short bill wa the present session. The bill sent to the Upper House on April, nearly six weeks ago, and was approaching and the wa sanitary regulations—forcing its attention of every one, it wa thought that the Legislative Co hurry the bill through. But fact? Why, from the moment up in the Council till the present single word has been said ab from present appearances noth said about it. This scandalous public health forced the Hou adoption of the Sanitary Commi order to have the city which was most filthy condition immediate! Several of the members declain against the Upper House for ma Commission a necessity, and a proposed to ascertain what the Council had done with the Incorp When the Commission bill goes of the official champions of mu stitutions accepting the circum rebuke for their culpable neglig bringing forward the amended tion bill, they go coolly to abuse the Lower House for s the measure. The worst featu case is that the Upper House all along and is conscious of the power in the Corporation. In fa torney General brought forward session, which met with the sanction, to incorporate the "pe remove the legal doubts thro levying and collection of taxes. A find the Colonial Secretary and coming forward, when they are cat trap of their own creating, and that the Council has all the necess

So much for impudence No. 1 shall we say of impudence No. 2 shall we say of a man or class of me to entertain the two great measu session—the Homestead bill and tion of imprisonment for debt; put off from day to day, while ridicu sures like the Volunteer bill ar through with lightning rapidity—we say of the Colonial Secreta these measures have been lying Council's table for a period months, rising up in great appear and declaring that one of them will into immediate consideration? Ta Van Winkle—Washington Irving co ceived such somnolent stolidity as go in these "heads" of department is, however, something more objection even the stolidity: there is the deep work mischief—to throw the cou further back, to drive every man of intelligence from the colony. The grand aim. If the population could wedded of these disgraceable pers will grumble at incompetent rulers at thicous taxation, and reduced to the uncomplaining spirits, or rather beasts," then the official millennium at hand. There is such a thing, however Government officials going to o

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday, May 18. SUPREME COURT.—Assignees of Macdonald vs. Tronco.—This was a jury case, action being brought to recover \$4,000 and upwards for money alleged to have been advanced and interest. The Attorney General, instructed by Messrs. Peakes and Green, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ring, instructed by Mr. Bishop, for the defendant. The case occupied the whole of the day; Mr. J. Barnett was called for the plaintiff and gave evidence as to the banking account. For the defence Dr. Powell, Mr. Sellick and the defendant were called. His Honor summed judiciously in favor of the defendant, and the jury agreeing with his Lordship returned a verdict without leaving the box.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Captain Clarke, arrived last evening from Nanaimo with a few passengers. The ship Riviero was discharging ballast. The Rev. Mr. Garrett gave an able lecture on Temperance, at the Mechanics' Institute, on Wednesday evening, which was largely attended. Mr. Cunningham presided, and at the conclusion the Rev. Mr. White proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer. Two schoolers were passed on the way down with lumber from Cowichan. The Sir James Douglas will make the next trip to Nanaimo on Monday, and will not proceed to Comox, but will return here on Wednesday.

FROM ALBERNI.—The schooner Cod-Fish, Captain Brown, arrived yesterday morning in twelve hours from Barclay Sound. She came here for salt to cure codfish, which Messrs. Sprout & Co's. men, three in number, are obtaining in large quantities from the Indians, ten tons having been secured within the last three weeks. The fish, when cured will average four or five pounds. They are said to be very plentiful. The place chosen for drying the fish is Village Island, near the mouth of Barclay Sound. Indians reported quite peaceable at Alberni.

CRAZY.—Giuseppe Melius, the Maltese fisherman who is fired with martial ardor, and desires to summon a band of volunteers to proceed with him to the wars, was brought up again yesterday in the Police Court. Dr. Helmecken certified that the man was laboring under insanity, and incapable of taking care of himself. Serg't Wilmer said Melius was much better, and in another week might be well enough to take care of himself. He was remanded for one week.

MURDEROUS ATTEMPT.—Yesterday afternoon as two gentlemen were walking to town on Store street, a Siwash was seen to emerge from a cabin on Cormorant street and deliberately discharge a gun at a squaw. The shot struck the woman on her forehead but fortunately glanced off without, we believe, penetrating her skull. Information was conveyed to the police and the offender was taken care of for the rest of the evening.

DEFAULTING PUBLICATIONS.—Several Saloon keepers appeared yesterday in the Police Court, to answer summonses for having neglected to pay the quarterly instalment of their liquor licenses. Receipts were handed in from the Treasury in most of the cases, and lenient penalties were inflicted. Two or three cases were postponed for one day.

THE NEXT STEAMER.—In answer to an enquiry made by telegraph a message was received yesterday, dated the day before, stating that the next steamer for Victoria was not advertised on the 16th.

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY did not meet yesterday, none of the members being present. It will assemble today at 1 p.m.

SAILED.—The steamer California, Captain Thorn, sailed yesterday afternoon at 4:15 p.m. for San Francisco direct, with a few passengers and the mails and express.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE MINING CO.—The extraordinary meeting of this company was adjourned yesterday until 11 a.m. to-day.

PARADE.—The Volunteers yesterday mustered for drill at James Bay in front of the Public Buildings.

Saturday, May 19. FROM LERCH RIVER.—Mr. J. G. McKay, of this city, has received a letter from a correspondent at Leech River informing him that at about 10 o'clock on the night of the 14th Mr. McKay's house, on Kennedy Flat, was set on fire by some person or persons, and burned to the ground. When the fire was discovered the building was in full blaze, and nothing could have saved it. The writer of the letter adds that he expects an influx of Chinamen to the mines. It had been raining heavily, causing all work to be suspended, and the mines had quite a deserted appearance although they have not really been half prospected. Some person in authority is required to preserve order. A special constable might answer, but the writer says there ought to be a local magistrate appointed either honorary or on a small salary, as there are a queer lot at the mines.

THE MAIL STEAMER.—In our telegraphic report of the 17th, published this morning, no mention is made of the departure of the mail steamer Sierra Nevada which was supposed to have cleared on the 16th. It is thought by some that the vessel said to have cleared was the bark Nevada as another private despatch dated the 16th, to which we alluded yesterday distinctly states that the mail steamer was not advertised. The 20th was the day mentioned for her departure when the California left.

THE COAL DISCOVERIES at Sooke.—In our notice of the discoveries of coal made on Capt. Nagle's property at Sooke we omitted to mention that the three seams were accidentally found by a man named Bishop, who was in the employ of Capt. Nagle. The Douglas will leave for the spot at half-past six this morning and will take some practical men to examine the coal deposits. We look forward with anxiety for their report.

LARGE TREASURE SHIPMENT.—The two city banks shipped by the steamer California for San Francisco about \$170,000. This shipment is the largest that has been made for many months, and consisted for the most part of gold that had been accumulating at the Cariboo branches during the last few months.

POLICE COURT.—The postponed cases for arrears of liquor licenses came up in the Police Court yesterday and occupied considerable time. The Magistrate rated Mr. Bishop for occupying so much time in resisting payment and fined some of the parties \$10 and others \$5 and costs.

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise left yesterday forenoon for New Westminster with passengers and freight. She took away another batch of Big Benders who were nothing discouraged by the recent questionable reports from the mines.

CAPTAIN STAMP, the member elect for Esquimalt Town in the room of J. J. Southgate, Esq., was sworn in yesterday and took his seat.

The Gunboat Forward returned from British Columbia yesterday, having replaced the boys.

SAILED.—The Russian Ship Cesarwitch, sailed from Esquimalt yesterday morning.

FOR NANAIMO.—The steamer Emily Harris, Captain Frain, will sail for the above port to-day at noon.

Monday, May 21. NEWS FROM BIG BEND.—The cheering news from Big Bend that came by telegraph on Saturday had the effect of reviving the drooping spirits of the community. It is worse than folly to allow ourselves to be dispirited by the loose and unreliable reports furnished by men who rushed up early in the spring and rushed back again with greater speed to disparage the mines without having attempted to prospect them. We may expect for some time to come to receive good accounts from one and bad from another. The extent and richness of the mines will not be known yet awhile.

ACCIDENT.—Mr. J. S. Drummond, while out riding on the Metcoshin road with some friends on Saturday, came in contact with a protruding branch of a tree, and was thrown with some violence. He was at once taken to Peatt's hotel and Dr. Trimble was sent for, but the injuries he sustained, we are pleased to learn, are not of a serious nature, and will probably only incapacitate Mr. Drummond from business for a few days. He still remains at Peatt's, where every attention is paid him, but he will be brought to town this evening.

LEASED.—We understand that Capt. Stamp has leased the whole of his handsome block erected on Government Street. The Free Masons have rented the Hall up stairs, the remaining portion being let into offices. Messrs. Hibben & Carswell, stationers, and Thomas Wilson & Co, drapers, have taken the stores on the ground floor.

THE COAL AT SOOKE.—The Sir James Douglas conveyed a number of gentlemen to Sooke Harbor on Saturday to inspect the coal seams discovered on Capt. Nagle's property. Specimens of the croppings were broken off and brought to town.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday from Fraser River with a few passengers and an up-country Express. Letters were received by parties in town giving information of a favorable nature from the Big Bend mines.

PICNIC EXCURSION.—The Managing Committee of the Mechanics Literary Institute contemplate making arrangements for a picnic excursion trip to San Juan Island on or about the 24th. The steamer Alexandra will probably be secured for the occasion.

A WHISKY MILL.—Two elevated nymphs of the forest became bellicose yesterday and pitched furiously into one another to the intense delight of an admiring crowd of spectators.

OUTSIDE.—A vessel was reported off the harbor last evening which may be the brig Sheet Anchor, now overdue from San Francisco.

INSPECTION.—The Volunteers will parade on the 24th at half-past 10 o'clock in marching order for inspection by His Excellency the Governor.

POPULATION OF CHIEF TOWNS IN ENGLAND.—The Registrar General makes the following estimate of the population of 13 of our great towns in the middle of the year 1866:—London, 3,067,536; Liverpool, 484,337; Manchester, 358,855; Salford, 112,904; Birmingham, 335,798; Leeds, 228,187; Sheffield, 218,257; Bristol, 163,680; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 122,277; Hull, 105,233. The estimate for Edinburgh is 175,128; for Glasgow, 432,265; for Dublin, the city and some suburbs, 313,437.

COMMERCIAL

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise sails this morning at 10 a.m. FOR NANAIMO.—The steamer Sir James Douglas sails for Nanaimo and way ports this morning at 8 a.m. FROM PORT ANGELES.—The sloop Frances, Captain Stratton, arrived last evening from Port Angeles.

THE steamer Emily Harris arrived from Port Angeles last evening, having conveyed a crew over for the English ship Ageria, loaded with lumber and bound for China.

GOLD SHIPMENT.—The Bank of British North America shipped per California \$101,421 75.

VICTORIA MARKETS. SATURDAY, May 19. FLOUR—Extra, \$9 00 @ \$9 50 per 100 lbs; Superfine, \$7 75 @ \$8 00 do. Common, \$5 50 @ \$6 00 do. RYE FLOUR—\$7 50 do do. CORNMEAL—\$5 00 do do. BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—\$8 00 @ \$10 00 do. SUGAR—Raw, \$8 @ \$9 per 100 lbs; Refined do \$14 @ \$15 do per case. COFFEE—\$26 @ \$27 per 50 lb sack. TEA—\$22 @ \$23 per 50 lb chest. YEAS—POWDER—\$5 50 @ \$7 75 per doz. SYRUP—\$5 per keg. CANDLES—\$5 50 @ \$6 50 per box. BUTTER—Best, \$11 @ \$12 per 50 lb case; Ordinary, \$7 @ \$8 do per kg. BACON AND HAMS—\$22 @ \$25 per 100 lbs; Ordinary, \$24 @ \$25 do in lots to suit. WHEAT—\$2 1/2 @ \$2 3/4 do per bushel. OATS—\$2 @ \$2 1/2 do do. BARLEY—\$1 1/2 @ \$2 do do. GROUNDED BAKELIE—\$2 1/2 @ \$2 3/4 do do. MIDDLING—\$2 1/2 @ \$2 3/4 do do. BRAN—\$1 @ \$2 do do. POTATOES—1c do do. HAY—\$14 @ \$14 1/2 do per bale.

CARIBOO MARKET PRICES.

(From the Sentinel.) Stocks are light considering the plethora state of the market last fall, and pack trains expected to arrive on the creek within a month with goods sufficient to supply all deficiencies. Gum Boots and Candles are the only articles nearly exhausted.

WHOLESALE. RETAIL. Flour..... \$30 00 per 100 lbs... \$30 00 per 100 lbs Bacon..... 55 per lb..... 62 per lb Sugar..... 40..... 50 Tea..... 22 @ 28..... 25 @ 35 Candles..... 1 (source)..... 1 25 Butter..... 90 @ 95..... 1 00 Tea..... 90 @ 95..... 1 00 Coffee (grd)..... 35..... 1 00 Do (green)..... 50 @ 55..... 1 00 Cheese..... 75..... 1 00 Tobacco..... 1 62 @ 1 75..... 2 00 Dried Apples..... 40..... 50 Nails..... 40 @ 45..... 60 Yeast Powder 5 00 per doz..... 6 00 per doz Gum Boots..... (source)..... 25 00 per pair

IMPORTS.

Per sloop LETITIA, from Puget Sound—7 tons hay, 40 doz eggs, 360 bus oats, 500 doz potatoes, 11 bus. Value \$640. Per str ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—12 pkgs furs, 2 horses, 2 coops chickens, 3 bxs eggs, 38 hd cattle, 190 hd sheep.—Value, \$4,340.

Per schooner A. CROSBY, from Astoria—150 bxs bacon and hams, 1600 qr sks flour, 11 bxs tea, 1000 sks flour, 2 kegs lard, 300 sks oats, 1 tool chest. Per schr DISCOVERY, from Port Angeles 54 tons coal, to Phoenix Coal Co. Value \$324. Per schr MATILDA, from Port Angeles—About 80 tons coal, to Phoenix Coal Co. Value, \$480.

CONSIGNEES.

Per str ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—F O Burr, Paul Medina, Smith, F Reynolds & Co, Hutchinson & Co, Carson & Co. Per schooner A. CROSBY, from Astoria—J P Couch, Lowe Bros., Jas Moorehead & Co., Wm Loche, G Promis, A Cassamayou, D. Lenevne, H B Co.

PASSENGERS.]

Per str ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—Wm Pickering, F O Burr, A J Burr, J Carroll, McCoy, James, Keeler, Shindler, J McAllister, H Harman, J M Conway, 1 Chinaman. Per schooner A. CROSBY, from Astoria—S A Rieux, Anthony Ford.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED. May 14—Sloop Letitia, Adams, Port Angeles. Schr Anne, Goin, Sooke. Sloop W B Naylor, Dake, Elakely Island. Str Diana, Wright, Port Angeles. May 15—Schr J K Thorndike, Thornton, San Juan.

Schr Clancy, Robinson, Port Angeles. Str Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles. Str California, Thorne, New Westminster. May 16th—Schr A Crosby, Perkins, Astoria. Str Emily Harris, Frain, Port Angeles. Schr Kate, Waller, N. W. Coast of V. I. May 17—Schr Codfish, Brown, Barclay Sound. Str Enterprise, Swanson, Barclay Sound. May 18—Schr Discovery, Rudlin, Port Angeles. May 17—Sloop W B Naylor, Dake, Lopez Island.

May 19th.—Schr Matilda, Greenwood, Port Angeles. Str Diana, Wright, Port Angeles. Slip Ocean Queen, Watkins, San Juan.

CLEARED. May 14—Schr Black Diamond, McCulloch, Nanaimo. Str Enterprise, Swanson, New Westminster. Str Emily Harris, Frain, Port Angeles. Str Diana, Wright, Port Angeles. May 15th—Schr J K Thorndike, Thornton, San Juan. Slip Ocean Queen, Watkins, San Juan.

Str Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles. Str California, Thorne, San Francisco. Sloop Letitia, Adams, Port Angeles. Schr Surprise, Francis, N. W. Coast of V. I. Str Enterprise, Swanson, New Westminster. May 16th—Sloop Union, Busby, Port Angeles. May 19th.—Schr Red Rover, Patton, Cowichan. Str Emily Harris, Frain, Nanaimo. Schr Nor Wester, Whitford, Port Angeles. Schr A J Wester, Mills, Port Angeles. Schr Codfish, Brown, Barclay Sound.

BIRTH.

In New Westminster, on the 2d inst., the wife of Mr. F. E. Howlett, of a daughter. In this city on the 20th inst., the wife of the Rev. Frank B. Gribbell, of a daughter.

DIED.

In this city, on the 14th inst., Mrs. Margaret Langley, aged 29 years. In New Westminster, on the 14th inst., Elizabeth, wife of Mr. F. E. Howlett. In the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminister, on the 14th inst., George Rasmleigh Gompertz, aged 33 years, late Captain, Glamorgan Militia, of Titanic.

BIG BEND GOLD MINES, British Columbia

The Safest, the Shortest and the Cheapest Route to these rich Placer Mines is by way of

Victoria, Vancouver Island. Passengers going this way have not to cross the dangerous Columbia River Bar, and the distance is over One-Third—or 279 Miles—Shorter by way of Victoria than by way of Portland.

The Governments of Vancouver Island and British Columbia have subsidised the following powerful steamers to carry miners from San Francisco to Victoria and New Westminster direct—

The Hudson Bay Co's Strm. Labouchal, Capt. Monat. The Cal. S. N. Co's Strm. Active, Capt. Thorn.

These, or other first-class steamers, will run on this route regularly, and will connect at Victoria with swift River steamers carrying passengers to Yale, a distance of 175 miles. From Yale to Savana Ferry, a distance of 133 miles, there is a splendid Government Wagon Road and Comfortable way-side Houses every few miles; over this road travellers can easily walk, or they can ride in Barnard's Fast Four-horse Stages. From Savana Ferry the Hudson Bay Co's new and swift Steamer Marten will run to Ogden City, upper end of Shuswap Lake, a distance of 111 miles. From Ogden City to the Columbia River, a distance of 34 miles, there is an excellent Government Pack Trail.

Miners Going to the Rich Mines of BRIDGE RIVER OR CARIBOO

can do so by the Government Wagon Road from Yale, over which it is easy to walk, or travellers can ride in fast Stages.

The Steamers running from San Francisco for the conveyance of passengers, by way of Victoria and the Fraser River, being under contract to the British Colonial Governments, the Rates of Fare charged are very low, and passengers are expeditiously, comfortably and cheaply conveyed from Victoria to the mines.

Miners going from San Francisco to the British Columbia Gold Mines will derive another great advantage by visiting the FREE PORT OF VICTORIA. In Victoria, Miners can supply themselves with every article they require, free of duty, and 25 to 50 per cent cheaper than they can buy similar goods in California or Oregon.

Distance from Victoria, couver Island, to Big Bend, 473 Miles. Distance from Astoria via Portland to Big Bend, 752 Miles

TABULAR STATEMENT OF DISTANCES, COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES.

From Victoria, Vancouver Island. To New Westminster, by steamer..... 80 Thence to Yale, by steamer..... 95 Thence to Savana's Ferry, by stages..... 133 Thence to head of Shuswap Lake, by steamer..... 111 Thence to Columbia River, at a point 30 miles above the supposed head of navigation, by Government Trail..... 34 Thence to Gold Creek, by boats..... 20 473

From Astoria, via Portland.

To Portland..... 95 Thence to the Dalles..... 110 Thence to Walla Walla..... 100 Thence to Colville..... 210 Thence to a point where the Trail from Shuswap Lake strikes the Columbia River..... 210 Thence to Gold Creek..... 20 752

Showing that the distance to the Big Bend Mines is 279 MILES LESS BY WAY OF VICTORIA than by way of Portland.

The following Statistics, respecting the probable Time and Expense of Travelling from VICTORIA TO BIG BEND, have been compiled by Mr. F. J. Barnard, the well known British Columbian Express Agent and Stage Proprietor: CLASS 1.—By Stage over the Wagon Road, and including Meals and Beds through.

Table with columns: Dist., Time, Rates, Meals. Victoria to Yale.....175.....24 hrs.....\$4.....\$6. Yale to Kamloops.....133.....24 hrs.....40.....5. Over the Lakes.....120.....16 hrs.....10.....4. Head of Lake to Columbia River.....35.....18 hrs.....9. Total number of hours travelling, 81. Total cost, \$78.

CLASS 2—On Foot from Yale to Lake Kamloops taking Meals and Beds at Wayside Houses.

Table with columns: Dist., Time, Rates, Meals. Victoria to Yale.....175.....24 hrs.....\$4.....\$6. Yale to Kamloops.....133.....5 days.....20. Over Lake.....120.....1 day.....10.....1.60. Head of Lake to Columbia River.....35.....2 days.....9. Total time, 9 days. Total cost, \$53.

CLASS 3—Men furnishing own Food on Steamer, Travelling on Foot from Yale to Lake Kamloops, and buying their own Provisions on the way or packing it with them.

Table with columns: Dist., Time, Rates, Meals. Victoria to Yale.....175.....24 hrs.....\$4.....\$6. Yale to Kamloops.....133.....5 days.....20. Over Lake.....120.....1 day.....10.....1.60. Head of Lake to Columbia River.....35.....2 days.....9. Total time, 9 days. Total cost, \$26.50. Victoria, Vancouver Island, 1866. fel5

Published by authority of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

Sporborg & Rueff, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, Importers and Wholesale Dealers

Groceries, Provisions, Boots and Shoes.

WEAVER STREET.....VICTORIA, V. I. 424 D & W

PICKLES, SAUCES, JAMS, &c. (FREE FROM ADULTERATION.) MANUFACTURED BY CROSSE & BLACKWELL, PURVEYORS TO THE QUEEN. SOHO SQUARE, LONDON.

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S Renowned first-class Manufactures are obtainable from every respectable Provision Dealer in the World. Purchasers should see that they are supplied with C. & B.'s genuine goods, and that inferior articles are not substituted for them. To insure thorough wholesomeness, their Pickles are all prepared in Pure Malt Vinegar, boiled in Oak Vats, by means of Platinum Steam Coils; and are precisely similar in quality to those supplied by them for use at HER MAJESTY'S TABLE. C. & B. are AGENTS for LEA & PERRIN'S Celebrated WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE, and are Manufacturers of every description of Olives' Stores of the highest quality.

SAUCE—LEA AND PERRIN'S Worcestershire Sauce.

PREPARED BY CROMBIE & CO. MEDICAL OPINION: To his Brother at Worcester, May, 1859. 'I have that LEA & PERRIN'S Sauce is highly esteemed in India, and is, in my opinion, the most palatable, as well as the most wholesome Sauce that is made.'

Caution. Lea & Perrin's WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE

Beget caution the public against spurious imitations of their celebrated WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE. L. & P. having discovered that several of the Foreign Markets have been supplied with spurious imitations, the labels of which closely resemble those of the genuine Sauce, and in one or more instances the names of L. & P. are used. L. & P. will proceed against any one who manufactures or vend such imitations, and have trusted their correspondents in the various parts of the world to advise them of any infringement of their rights.

Ask for Lea and Perrin's Sauce.

Sole Wholesale and Export for the Prov. of Victoria, Messrs. Crose and Blackwell, Messrs. Barclay and Sons, London, etc., etc., and by Grocers and Olivesmen generally.

Janion, Green & Rhodes, Agents for VICTORIA, V. I.

DAY & MARTIN'S REAL JAPAN BLACKING!

97, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON. For affording nourishment and durability to the Leather it stands Unrivalled. Sold by all First Class Houses in British Columbia and the Colonies.

In Bottles and Tins of 6d., 1s. and 1s. 6d. each.

Washing made Easy! THE FAMILY WASHING

May be speedily accomplished, to the great delight of the Housewife, by using Harper's 'Wolvetree' 'Glycerine Soap Powder.' A Clergyman's wife says, 'one half of Soap is saved, two-thirds of time, and three-fourths of labor.' Sold in Fancy Packets by all Storekeepers, and Wholesale by Harper Twyford St, Bromley-by-Bow, London. Wholesale Agents for Vancouver Island. J. KESSLER, JANION, GREEN, & RHODES, 418 1/2

THE BRITISH COLONIST

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By the European telegrams, before our readers this morning appear that war between Austria and Prussia has been announced. The panic which has broken the largest of houses is due, according to the declaration of war between German powers. With all the rumors that have been afloat for some time past, we confess we were not so sudden an announcement of and with the history of these poor eyes, with the characteristic writing and talking rather than find it difficult to believe that a war has really been made. However, of the grave months London and the general alarm mental as well as commercial of that something more than an article has taken place on the 1st of May, 1866, that the banking establishments have payments, and wealthy mercantile have been obliged to close. Bank of England, the solidity of almost-become a proverb, was so account of the run that was made that the very extraordinary compensating the Bank Act had to be by the Government, and an addition of £5,000,000 authorized. Similar with this operation the rate of discount to the enormous figure of ten per cent as all this, we have only heard of the money market. We are quite prepared to learn from subsequent despatches that panic has spread over the United States, and that suspension and failures come the order of the day. A premonitory symptoms of the beginning to make their appearance, and everything points to a crash over the American as well as the European continent. All this is a gloomy picture, but it is most likely to be a false alarm. We alluded a few days ago to the barometer of the money market, probability that a serious crisis was at hand, however, if the news of non-shipment of war be true, have we not as we have already said, more than we expected, and indicate commencement of a conflagration likely to confine itself to Austria and Prussia; for above all the signs of Europe the torch of war could not be lighted with greater danger than in the federal Germany. Italy cannot of the blaze, and France, with all her protestations, is morally certain to up in the struggle. If with all these changes, and probably new parties Central Europe which such a war give rise to, England can do more in Russia on the other hold aloof more in "dignified neutrality" than disposed to believe. We are afraid, there will be no neutrality—that indifference can be none. It is not now a small kingdom at one end of like Denmark is to be out of the picture; but whether the grand "balance power" is to be upset and the gravity, hopelessly lost—whether the great bulwark against the of both France and Russia is to be away. War, however, will not stop the European continent. So soon as shows a disposition to mix in the United States, with the two great powers of Maximilian engaged in makes short work of the Mexican