

The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday December 29, 1869

The Way to Kootenay.

Do our people know, does the Govern- or know, that the only means of reaching Kootenay is via Portland and the Columbia River? Are the people aware, is His Excellency aware that while we have been laying the foundations of empire on paper, and gazing the area of our territory in imagination, our American neighbors have practically annexed the southern part of British Columbia to their own territory? It only remains to us in name, on paper. For all practical purposes it is a part of Washington Territory; and it should, in common fairness, be entitled to send a representative to the Territorial Legislature. This is not said in irony. It is sober truth. The Americans hold the avenues of access to our southern mines. They work these mines, supply the needs of the population they send to work them, taking the gold in return. If any of our own people wish to visit these mines they must make a journey through Oregon State and Washington Territory in order to accomplish it. True, we send a messenger occasionally with a few letters in his breeches' pocket, to one or two persons acting as the representatives of our Government over there; but even he must needs betake himself to a foreign route of travel, or become an involuntary trapper in the mountains. Why is this thus? Simply on account of official supineness. An infinitely shorter and better route can be made available through our own territory, one which would not only secure to us all the travel and trade with the southern portion of the colony, but which would be the means of opening up and developing many interests of greater ultimate value than all the gold mines in the colony. This everlasting iteration is as irksome to ourselves as it must be to the reader. Yet the interests and consequences involved are so momentous that we feel impelled to continue to lift up our voices and enter our protest against a course so unpatriotic and utterly subversive of the best interests of the colony. We have attributed this deplorable condition of our relations with the southern section of the Colony to official supineness; but it would not be correct to say that no attempt has been made to establish communication. Would that we could say so. It would be infinitely more creditable to the Government, and certainly more satisfactory to the colony had no attempt been made. Two attempts may be said to have been made. The first was that fatal misdirection of money and of energy (?) which cost the colony between seventy and eighty thousand dollars, and left nothing to show for it but the merest apology for a trail, to follow which would require all the instinct and sagacity of a native of the forest, and all the endurance and agility of a mountain goat. The second effort was directed towards exploring the country lying between Lake Sheswep and Kootenay, with a view to discovering suitable passes through intervening mountain ranges, and if this attempt is floated, it is expected upon the colony, that the first, or at least the second, attempt will be abandoned. It is not necessary to add to the details of the first attempt, the fact that it was an unnecessary and fruitless one, as would be the addition of a fifth attempt to an ordinary coach; but the choice of the new officer was as bad as the act itself was unjustifiable. A gentleman chiefly remarkable for lazy luxuriance, was selected for Assistant, and to him was intrusted the work of conducting the exploration. We will not be expected to enter into the details of the manner in which the duties of that important mission were discharged. The eccentricities of the Assistant Surveyor General and his large staff of attendants supplied material for many a good story among the miners and traders of that part and period. For the rest, suffice it to say that the Assistant's forte consisted in exploring the country while stretched upon his comfortable bear-skin couch in his tent, indulging in Havana cigars and Hudson Bay rum. After thus spending the season right pleasantly, the luxurious Assistant repaired to head quarters at the capital, where a glowing and wordy official report was cooked up and published with due circumstance in the Government Gazette. The reader will readily anticipate as when we state that actual observation subsequently proved that report to be just such fiction as the circumstances surrounding its origin would lead one to expect. Such were the practical nature and results of the second and last effort put forward by the Government, with a view to establishing communication with the increasingly important gold-fields on our Southern frontier. We may be met with the question, 'If the two attempts already

made by the Government have proved so expensive and abortive, why advocate another? The question is, we confess, neither unnatural nor unreasonable. Our answer is this: We venture to hope that such exhibitions of prodigal and bungling imbecility ended with a previous administration, and that any exploration undertaken now would be characterized by more vigor and less extravagance. But, in addition to all that, individual exploration has left comparatively little for the Government to do. The country drained by the Upper Columbia is no longer the terra incognita of former times. It has been ascertained with a tolerable degree of certainty that passes, low and good, do exist; and if we may rely upon information which comes to us under circumstances calculated to inspire entire confidence, it only remains for the Government to make a choice of routes, survey the line, and proceed at once with the construction of a suitable road, a cheap, practical road. We want no 'Roman Roads' just now. The colony cannot afford such a luxury. Once more, therefore, we urge upon the Executive the duty of immediate attention to this matter.

Thursday Dec 23

SCHOOL EXHIBITION.—The pupils attending Mme. Pettibon's school gave an exhibition yesterday before a number of parents and friends. The young ladies were prettily dressed in white, and showed great proficiency in vocal and instrumental music and in elocution. Several of the dialogues and recitations were very amusing. Specimens of fancy work by the scholars adorned the walls, some of which were most beautiful in conception and execution. At the close of the exhibition, which lasted 2 1/2 hours, the following prizes were presented:

FIRST CLASS.

Sarah Coxon.—1st prizes for Biography, Mythology, Geography, Ancient History, Scripture, Grecian History, Grammar, Arithmetic, Vocal and Instrumental Music and Fancy Work.

Lizzie Mason.—1st prizes for Orthography, French and Fancy Work. 2d prizes for Mythology, Geography, Grammar and Arithmetic.

Mary Watson.—1st prizes for English History and Fancy Work.

Isabella Watson.—Prizes for English History and Fancy Work. 2d prize for Orthography.

Mary Ann Allatt.—1st prizes for American History and improvement in Music. 2d prizes for Biography and Orthography.

SECOND CLASS.

Annie Evans.—2d prizes for American History and Common Subjects.

Emma Weller.—1st prizes for English History, Geography, Grammar, Common Subjects and Fancy Work.

Josephine Jamieson.—1st prizes for Grammar, Common Subjects, Improvement in Music and Fancy Work.

Agnes Harrison.—2d prizes for Geography and Common Subjects. 1st prizes for Orthography, Music and Fancy Work.

Hannah Sumner.—1st prizes for Reading, Music and Fancy Work.

Alice Combs.—1st prizes for Arithmetic, French, Music and Fancy Work.

THIRD CLASS.

Isabella Johnston.—1st prizes for Reading, Grammar and Arithmetic.

Fanny Allatt.—1st prizes for Geography, Common Subjects and Spelling.

Alfred Harrison.—2d prizes for Reading and Spelling.

Thomas Elia.—Prize for Diligence.

FOURTH CLASS.

Francis Winger.—1st prizes for Reading, Arithmetic and Spelling.

A CRUEL HOAX.—A few days ago, at New Westminster, an ex-mayor and present councillor had a dog which he had named after his favorite dog, was sorely afflicted with fleas. 'I'll let you what I'll give 'em away, said the councillor to a neighbor, 'if you'll stand your dog before it and rob well.' The man in question, who had a dog named 'I'll kill your mother's son of 'em.' 'I'll do it,' quoth the councillor, and straightway the dog was put on a poor doggie led before the blazing fire. A can filled with coal oil was produced and the animal's coat saturated with it. 'To be well rubbed in before a hot fire,' repeated the councillor, as he proceeded to stroke the animal's back with no light hand, and seating the action to the word backed the poor brute so close to the grate that the flame caught with the oil-soaked hair. In an instant the poor creature's coat was in a blaze, and uttering fearful yells he flew like a blazing comet from the room in his flight overturning his master and communicating the fire to his trousers. The dog ran till he was baked when he lay down like a sensible canine and died. The councillor with difficulty saved his own life but lost his trousers. The councillor is still lame from the burns sustained, and is awaiting an opportunity to get even with the man who 'sold him.

TWO YOUNG MEN, lately belonging to Uncle Sam's far-protecting battalions at Sitka, were found by officer Ferrell at an early hour yesterday morning in the act of scaling a fence at the rear of the Pacific Telegraph Hotel, Store street. One of them was perched like a Christmas turkey on the fence when caught by the officer. They were conducted to the station house, where \$25 in gold and greenbacks were found in their pockets. Yesterday Mr Courtney, who was engaged for the defence, proved that the young men were scaling the fence to visit some friends who were asleep at the hotel, and the Magistrate only exacted that they should deposit \$25 each as security for their good behavior while here. The Magistrate also cautioned the prisoners against thieves and sharpers who are always ready to relieve the unwary of their money. And said that the \$25 would be retained in his hands until they were ready to leave on the next steamer.

SPANISH COLONIAL POLICY.—On the 16th Nov. a discussion arose in the Cortes, at Madrid, respecting the treatment of the colonies. One of the Porto Rico deputies asked the Minister for the colonies what the course of the Government would be towards the island that was peopled by six hundred thousand faithful Spaniards. The minister replied that the treatment of the colonies would be such that their people would be proud to call themselves Spaniards. The deputies suggested and advised the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico, with indemnification to the owners.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS.—St Andrew's (Catholic) Cathedral, and St John's and Christ Churches are being handsomely decorated for Christmas Day. Divine services will be held at the Episcopal, Methodist and Catholic Churches on Christmas morning, and at midnight Christmas Eve, Mercaderes' Third Mass will be sung by a choir of eleven voices at St Andrew's Church.

THE STREETS AND SHOPS, fringed with groves of evergreens and laurel in lieu of holly, present a pretty and cheering appearance. We are reminded by a gentleman connected with the Police Force that any person found cutting evergreens on the public parks will be prosecuted.

THE VERUNA.—This little tugboat was released by the Sheriff yesterday and brought alongside of Leneveu's wharf, where portions of the machinery taken out of her when first seized will be replaced. The Veruna will be commanded by her former captain, Jackson, and will sail on or about Saturday for Puget Sound. The appraised value of the steamer is \$10,000.

JUDGE ALEXANDER W. BALDWIN, of Nevada killed by the recent railroad accident near San Francisco, had \$45,000 insurance on his life. Judge Baldwin was admitted to the Nevada bar, ten years ago, when 19 years of age, a special act of the Legislature being passed to permit it.

THE INDICATIONS are that the U. S. House Committee on Territories will report against the establishment of a territorial government in Alaska, and allow that country to remain longer under military control. A bill regulating the seal fisheries will be brought in after the holidays.

IT MAY PERHAPS prove consoling to the people on the shady side of forty, who have not yet succeeded in making their fortunes, to know that the late Mr. Peabody accumulated the greater part of his vast wealth during the last five-and-twenty years of his life. It is said on trustworthy authority, that at 50 he was worth but little more than \$50,000,000.

THE GOSPEL TELLER will be due to-night. The Carter Dramatic Troupe all aboard. The Teller probably connected with the San Francisco steamer at Astoria.

'NETTLED NOT METTLED.'

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—A letter appeared in your yesterday's issue purporting to be an answer to mine under the above caption of the 18th inst., signed 'Not a Druid.' This nom de plume was wholly unnecessary, as it is evident from the tenor of the letter the writer belongs to no order, observes none, and puts forth a garbled statement, for he plagiarizes and says he has been a householder on Michigan street nearly five years. This cannot be true because he would not be ignorant that most of the householders did contribute towards the grading of the street. Perhaps, however, 'Not a Druid' resided five years in the capacity that John Christian occupies in more than one well appointed house in town. Again he says 'I am ignorant or willfully blind' when I assert that the graveling stopped at the Hon. Colonial Secretary's residence. I say it does, but the work was necessarily carried on a few yards further to give it the proper declivity. This however, is trifling to give sides to the word to need comment. Further, the writer asserts that the graveling was the only portion of the street that he resided in. 'Nonsense!' It was at about the middle of the street, where it is a narrow alley, and the graveling was laid down by the Hon. Colonial Secretary's residence. 'I dare say,' however, 'that when 'Not a Druid' saw a wagon loaded with wood piled to the skyline he must have felt some little compunction of conscience that his wood was an unprofitable article and that the product of tree vandalism from near his very door. This is assuming him an actual householder and not a mythical one. The entire letter savors of ink from a James Bay department, in violation of an error and gross partiality on the part of one who ordered the work to be made out of public moneys for the accommodation of an individual, to the prejudice of many. I am in justice bound to say that since my last I have learned that the Col. Secretary was no orders, and that the graveling was made without his knowledge, and that the same was done under the direction of an official who may be worse than sand-papery, viz. brought to the scratch for not doing his duty without fear, favor and affection.

DRUID.

THE CHRIST CHURCH CONTROVERSY.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I would be sorry to accuse 'One who has the Moral Courage to say No' in your impression of the 19th of desiring intentionally to injure the cause of Christian liberty in this Colony. If he is one of those who cannot resist a temptation to promote religious progress by assisting to raise a house for God's service, he need not boast of his moral courage in assisting to any appeal made to him for this purpose, as no reasonable person would expect him to say yes. But the spirit that prompted him to publish a letter which displays such a lack of charity and benevolence cannot be deluded. Not only does he disapprove of building a church which is very much required, but he writes disparagingly of music in any form. What a blessing it is that there are few such men in the world. And what a curse that there are any such, especially in a new colony where Christian liberty is most of all required. Yet this man does not object to have a Church, provided the people of England pay for it. He is not above begging from those

who can in no way receive any benefit from religious institutions in this colony. In fact he is one of those who will take and enjoy anything that costs him nothing. To give him is not inclined—and the worst is he has the 'moral courage' to boast of it. How far he is guilty of glorying in his own shame I leave it to himself to consider.

So far from his being justified in trying to dry up the foundation of liberty in this colony, there is no part of the world where church extension is more necessary. Go into the country districts and hundreds of families will be seen growing up in ignorance and vice, and they will tell you that a Protestant clergyman never visits their door. Look at the unfortunate Indians in general and those living in Victoria in particular. What degradation, misery and wretchedness do we behold—a reproach to Christianity and civilization! Where are the men who came here under a solemn engagement to devote themselves to missionary work among the heathen? Have they remained faithful to their trusts, or having found easier spheres of labor, do they now turn their backs with cold indifference on the unfortunate natives and leave them to perish? I blush for the Christian principle of such men. The Church of Rome, to her credit be it spoken, does not neglect the heathen, and moreover takes charge of our Protestant orphans, for whom there is not an institution in which these little ones can be brought up in the faith of their parents.

What a sad picture of Christian reality is the 'Lounge' of the London Illustrated Times says:—By the way, speaking of water-proofs, I think I can give travellers a valuable hint or two. For many years I have worn rubber water proofs, but I will buy no more, for I have learned that good Scottish tweed can be made entirely impervious to rain, and moreover, I have learned how to make it so; and for the benefit of my readers I will give the receipt:—In a bucket of soft water put half pound of sugar of lead and half a pound of powdered alum; stir this at intervals until it becomes clear; then pour it off into another bucket, and put the garment therein, and let it be in for 24 hours, and then hang it up to dry, without wringing it. Two of my party—a lady and a gentleman—have worn garments thus treated in the wildest storms of wind and rain without getting wet. The rain hangs upon the cloth in globules. In short, they are really water proof. The gentleman a short time ago, walked nine miles in a storm of rain and wind, such as you rarely see in the South, and when he slipped of his overcoat, his underclothes were as dry as when he put them on. This, I think, a secret worth knowing, for cloth, if it can be made to keep out wet, is in every way better than what we know as water proof.

THE VALUE OF THE PRINCIPAL SEES in this Colony: Canterbury £15,000 a year, York and London £10,000 each, Durham £8000, Winchester £7000, Ely £5600. The other bishoprics are worth some £4000 and others £4500 a year.

Every idle hand has a stone, every idle foot has a kick for the street dog, every driver a whip, and every carpenter a cleit stick. He has only to look at a butcher's shop—surely to point at a sheep to be snatched up instantly. Bang goes the chopper and off flies a few inches of his tail. He has only to be looked at by a bevy of young blackguards, and in a jiffy away he scours, encumbered with an old kettle.

CURES AND COMFORT FOR THE BED-RIDDEN.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.

This wonderful Ointment acts like magic in relieving every case of Rheumatism, Sciatica, Gout, Neuralgia, and all the various forms of Pain, and is equally efficacious in the treatment of all the various forms of Skin Disease, such as Eczema, Scabies, and all the various forms of Itch, and is equally efficacious in the treatment of all the various forms of Swelling, such as Dropsical Swellings, and all the various forms of Inflammation, such as Bronchitis, Croup, and all the various forms of Hoarseness, and is equally efficacious in the treatment of all the various forms of Spasmodic Affections, such as Spasmodic Cough, and all the various forms of Asthma, and is equally efficacious in the treatment of all the various forms of Nervous Affections, such as Headache, and all the various forms of Indigestion, and is equally efficacious in the treatment of all the various forms of Female Complaints, such as Menstrual Disorders, and all the various forms of Pains in the Back, and is equally 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The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday December 29, 1869.

Anti-Confederate Perversity.

In a communication published yesterday 'H' seeks to create unnecessary prejudice and alarm in the minds of a certain class of this community. Instead of inviting the reader to follow 'H' through the labyrinthian maze of distorted fact and idle fiction of which his communication is for the most part composed, we will content ourselves with stating that excise taxes, export duties, and license rates fortunately fall amongst that class of taxation not necessarily uniform the Dominion over. Unlike the customs import tariff, there exists no insuperable constitutional or practical reason why these should not be dealt with under a system possessing sufficient elasticity to adapt itself to exceptional local conditions. Practical proof of this will be found in the manner of dealing with Nova Scotia coal interests; and it further evidence of the disposition of the Dominion Government in this regard we would say may be found in the basis of union agreed upon between the Canadian Cabinet and the Newfoundland Commissioners. The 15th section runs as follows: 'The provisions in the aforesaid British American Act, 1867, shall—except those parts thereof which are in terms made, or by reasonable intendment may be held to be specially applicable to, and only effect, one and not the whole of the Provinces now composing the Dominion, and except as far as the same may be varied by the resolutions—be applicable to Newfoundland, in the same way, and to the like extent, as they apply to the other Provinces of the Dominion, and as if the colony of Newfoundland had been one of the Provinces originally united by the said Act.' And, then, as if to preclude the possibility of doubt as to whether or not the matter of imposing export dues forms a question of open policy to be adjusted according to circumstances, and regulated by future legislation rather than fixed by any arbitrary constitutional rule—to show, in short, that it is a matter falling within the parenthesis class of exceptional subjects alluded to in the section just quoted, the following minute, marked 'a', is added: 'With reference to the 7th resolution of the Legislature of Newfoundland, by which it is asked that 'No tax shall be imposed on the exports of this colony unless a similar tax be levied on all the staple products of the other Provinces of the Dominion,' it is understood that the general imposition of export duties on the staple products of any Province is contrary to the policy of the Government of Canada, and a contingency not to be contemplated; but it is agreed that taxation, in whatever form it may be found necessary hereafter to impose it, shall be so adjusted as to bear equally on all the Provinces; and that no scheme would be proposed which might in its effect operate with undue pressure on oil, fish, or any other staple exports of Newfoundland. The above would appear to have been a clause from the 'H' paper, in which it is stated that the Dominion Government is free to levy any tax on any article of the tariff, and is anxious to preserve to them. And then what about the price of beer? It is fair to assume that the Dominion Government has a large business interest in this matter. Perhaps after all, the most effective instrument with which to knock over the frail edifice erected by 'H' is the simple fact that in Canada, notwithstanding all these terrible taxes and obstructions, beer is sold for 20 cts. a gallon; while in this city, notwithstanding the help and blessings enjoyed under our blessed system, beer is sold for 50 cents a gallon. There is nothing like practical facts. One of these will go for more than a great growth of hypothetical inducements. The price of beer to the consumer—that's the point. It appears to us that 'H' is unable to distinguish between an excise duty and an export duty; but if his letter possesses any value at all, it is in this, that it presents additional reasons why the people of British Columbia should cohere together, and be agreed as to what will and what will not conduce to our interests under Confederation. After exhibiting in panoramic array a few evils which may come upon this people if they persistently refuse to make their wants known, largely mixed, however, with a motley array of hotdog bluffs, the offering of disordered vision, 'H' asks, 'How are these evils to be remedied? The answer is obvious. Desist from the ungrateful task of writing letters which can only tend to prejudice and mislead. Meet the colonists collectively and by fair, free and honest discussion let us endeavor to arrive at some definite and intelligent conclusion as to what we do desire under Confederation. (This is the way to avert, not remedy, the evils complained of.) All the few gentlemen

who are still found in opposition to Confederation will adopt some such practical course of action, they may yet acquire some claim to be regarded as patriots.

Education.

In the course of a rather remarkable article on the subject of a common school system, our evening contemporary has fallen into several inaccuracies, and has made some rather unwarrantable statements. He cannot understand how we can uphold the mixed system, and says he knows of no country in which, in principle, it is approved. If, by the mixed system is meant that under which the cost of common school education is paid in part from State revenues, and in part from local sources, we have only to say that the grounds upon which we uphold that system have been so often and so fully stated that we cannot think it necessary to recapitulate them here. Where education is wholly at the expense of the State, we conceive compulsory attendance at school, as in Prussia, to be necessary; and we must confess that we are not prepared to advocate the compulsory system in a colony representing such a variety of nationality and religious belief. Whatever may be said in favor of that principle as applied to some European countries, we would be disposed to regard its application to a community like this as an arbitrary and unjustifiable interference with the rights of the subject. If our contemporary is really honest—and we would be sorry to question his honesty—in asserting that he knows of no country where what he terms the mixed system is approved, we beg to refer him to Canada—his own native country, we believe—where, as we stated on Saturday, the principle permeates the whole system, and has been alluded to with pride by the head of that system, as one of its most worthy characteristics. Our contemporary declines to believe that the Canadian school system is the most perfect educational system in the world; and he seeks to fortify his position by referring to Dr. Ryerson's mission to Europe, and that gentleman's expressed opinion that the Prussian system of education was the most perfect. In this our contemporary tells the truth, but not the whole truth. Dr. Ryerson was commissioned by the Canadian Government to travel through Europe, and examine the best systems of education, with a view to constructing a better one from them all. On his return the Doctor did state it as his opinion that Prussia possessed the most perfect system; but he took occasion at the same time to point out the inadaptability of that system to a mixed community such as that found in Canada. He set himself to work, and taking the best parts of all the systems, constructed one presumably superior to any. During some twenty years Dr. Ryerson continued to be the executive head of that system, and the well known ability and untiring assiduity with which he applied himself to its improvement in every possible way, we think fully warranted in repeating the assertion that it is the most perfect educational system in the world; and we feel all the more free to allude to it in these terms from the fact that the Dominion system was specifically mentioned in the British Parliament, and that the British Government sent a Commissioner to study that system, with a view to introducing it in the Dominion. We have no objection to a comparison of the Dominion system with any other system, but we do mean to insist on the fact that our contemporary is sincere in suggesting the employment of Government officials as school teachers. It looks very like a joke; yet, as such it would be a grim one, offered upon a subject of such profound importance. Altogether, we are disposed to think that our evening contemporary has made a very unhappy attempt to deal with the great subject of popular education, and we feel assured that there will be very few persons in this colony disposed to think with him upon almost any one of the propositions he has laid down. We need not say how much we regret this apparent disagreement of the press upon a matter of such importance as that of common school education in this colony. In taking leave of this subject for the present, we may be permitted to suggest whether the circumstance of this colony being about to become a Province of the Dominion of Canada does not furnish an additional argument in favor of the gradual assimilation of our educational institutions to those of that country. At all events it will be our true wisdom to profit as far as we can by the long experience Canada has had in this matter. We are not likely to be able to command the twenty years' services of a Doctor Ryerson, in building up a system all our own. Let us avail ourselves, as far as we can, of a system carefully constructed with a view to meeting conditions of nationality and creed, as well as the natural circumstances incident to a new country, very similar to those presented in British Columbia. (Continued)

Wednesday Dec 29

THE ROAD TAX.—After the usual business at the Police Court yesterday, three summonses for road tax were heard before the Magistrate. The first, that of Mr. Drake, the defendant proved that he did not possess the property for which he was assessed. The next case called was that of Alex. E. B. Davis, Solicitor for \$2. Everything was admitted in this case; but two points were raised which were common to the next case. They were over-ruled by the Magistrate; and judgment given for the amount with costs. The third case was that of Robert Weir of Metchoin District, summoned for \$19 84, road tax due by him, a portion in Metchoin District and a portion \$5 84 in Sooke District. Mr. Green, as in the former case, conducted the prosecution on behalf of Mr. E. Mallandaine, Collector under the Road Ordinance, and Mr. Bishop defended. After giving his evidence, Mallandaine was cross-examined at some length, and with considerable severity, as also a witness, J. C. Davis. Mr. Bishop wishing to show that the proper formalities had not been complied with as prescribed by the Ordinance. The latter made nothing of it however; it was clearly proved for the plaintiff that the lists had been delivered in the districts, and due notice thereof given by advertisements in the Government Gazette and by hand-bills in the Road district. Demand was proved to have been made, and a correspondence put in between the defendant and the Collector as to accumulating or mitigating payment. The first point tried to be raised by Mr. Bishop in defence was that no demand had been made for the tax in the Metchoin district; though Mr. Mallandaine proved several demands in Victoria, personally. This, as a defence, was over-ruled by the Magistrate and pronounced per se, or words to that effect. The next and the strongest objection for the defence was the introduction of the application of a clause in 11 and 12 Vic. c. 43, s. 11, to the effect that all complaints must be brought within 6 months of the time when the matter of such complaint arose. The complaint which drew forth the summons stated that the defendant made default on 1st of June; and, therefore, it was urged the 6 months had expired on the 1st Dec. This objection was over-ruled by the Magistrate who stated that a 19 and 22 both gave 30 days, the one in which to pay the tax, and the other after which to commence proceedings. Therefore the 6 months would not commence till after the expiration of 30 days on the 1st day of July. That was his opinion in both these cases and if he was wrong it would have to be decided in a higher court. With regard to the assessment lists, notices, &c., it appeared to him that the law had been complied with—and as to the general matter of the tax, defendant, from the correspondence, &c. must have been well acquainted with the whole of the circumstances. Judgment was given for \$14, claimed in Metchoin district, and costs. Mr. Bishop wished to bring evidence as to labor put out by Mr. Weir on the trail leading to his Sooke claim. This was deemed inadmissible by the Magistrate. Mr. Pemberton made some general remarks as to payment of road tax which he said it was to be hoped all persons would cheerfully pay, as all wish for good roads.

City Council.

TUESDAY, Dec 21, 1869. Council met at 8 o'clock.—His Worship the Mayor in the Chair, and Messrs Walker, Cary, Allison, Garow, Russell and McKay present. Accounts of the COLONIST and NEWS for printing, Referred to Finance Committee. Councilor Russell reported that the sidewalk on Kane street had been properly laid, and recommended the payment of the bill. Carried. Two accounts for cleaning the streets—\$32—and account from E. Phelps, for making a culvert on Douglas and View streets, \$16, were referred to the Finance Committee. Communication from the Acting Postmaster, asking for an advance of \$25 on account of his fees. Referred to the Finance Committee. The Street Commissioners reported that Mr. Bond had completed the crossing at the intersection of Douglas and Hamilton streets, and recommended that the same be opened to traffic. Communication from Mr. W. H. Ward, of the Bank of British Columbia, requesting attention to the defective manner in which Barrow street had been left by the contractors for the drain and sidewalk. The Mayor moved that the street should receive his earliest attention, and that the Council should be kept advised of the progress of the work. Councilor Carey moved for the appointment of Joseph Joseph as Messenger to the Council with a salary of \$40 per month. His Worship said that the appointment was not an annual one. Councilor Carey believed that it was incumbent on the Council to confirm the appointment from year to year. His Worship said that that arrangement would be too democratic a one. Councilor Carey said he would waive the appointment for the present, and moved for an increase in the salary of \$5 per month. Councilor Russell seconded the motion. Councilor Allison would like to see the Messrs get set as Collectors as well and receive a percentage. The matter was finally postponed for one week. In reply to Councilor Carey, Councilor McKay said that the accounts were about to be audited. A discussion here arose as to the manner in which the accounts should be audited, and the Mayor said the work would be performed at once. Adjourned for one week. THE STANDARD.—We have very great pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the Standard Life Assurance Company. The claims to confidence and patronage with which this company is surrounded, and the numerous awards which it has received, are all facts which would seem to be no obvious impediment to its success. The results of such investigations north of the Tweed has almost become proverbial; and when we look at the solidity of the monetary basis and the away of inflexible fidelity associated with the directors and the fact of 45 years' successful working, we have no hesitations in counting the Standard among the most solid and reliable institutions of the kind.

Thursday Dec 30

THE RARE FOSSIL.—It is not often that I see the Guardian, a paper published at New Westminster; but Saturday's issue of that paper accidentally fell in my way, and a rare treat it proved. It appears that the Hon. H. Holbrook was hounded out of the Municipal Council. An election was held last week, to fill the vacant seat, and Mr. Holbrook was re-elected by acclamation, because there was nobody to oppose him. It may be as well to explain that there are twelve seats, and there are only that number of inhabitants possessing the necessary property qualification, who can be prevailed upon to occupy these seats. No sooner is Mr. Holbrook elected, however, than he rushes into print with a card, tendering his most sincere thanks for their kindness (readily, I should think)—in again replacing him in the most honorable position etc., etc., and telling them that he accepts this generous act as an endorsement of his anti-Confederate views; but the joke is spoiled by a reference to another column of the paper, where it turns out that Mr. Holbrook's proposer and seconder are the strongest Confederationists in the place! But the richest treat is not to be found in Mr. Holbrook's election thanksgiving card. It is to be found in a long-winded letter, in English peculiarly his own, published in the same paper. That letter I will not attempt to criticise. It is above, beyond, below all criticism. I can only recommend every one that can manage to procure a copy of the sheet which contains it to read the indescribably unique document.

THE VERUNA CASE.—In the suit of Bates v. U. S. Registrar in Bankruptcy, vs. Colman and Spalding, alleged owners of the steamer Veruna, Chief Justice Needham yesterday gave his decision, which, practically, orders the steamer to be delivered up to the plaintiff—the bill of sale from Colman to Spalding being declared void as against the plaintiff; the delivery of the steamer will be subject to certain suits in admiralty by bands of the vessel. The Veruna, it will be remembered, was forcibly taken out of the hands of the Registrar in Bankruptcy in Washington Territory and brought to this port under circumstances of a very peculiar character which were detailed in these columns at the time. Mr. McCreight, instructed by Messrs Peckles & Davis, for plaintiff, Mr. Ring, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Robertson, instructed by Mr. Bishop, for defendant.

THE MOST POWERFUL GUN IN EUROPE.—Some interesting experiments have taken place at Perm with a 20 inch gun cast in the foundry at that town. The trials made with this gun under the direction of Major General Festsch, commandant of the Oronstadt artillery, are described in the official reports as having been very successful, and more satisfactory in their results than had been the case with American guns of the same calibre. The gun was fired 314 times; the projectile weighs 10 cwt. and the charge of powder required for each shot was 130 lbs. The weight of the gun is 50 tons, the recoil 7 feet, the initial velocity of the projectile 1,120 feet per second, and the pressure on the barrel at the distance of 50 feet, about 10,000 tons. The official papers say this is 'the most powerful gun in Europe.'

FIENDISH ATTEMPT.—An attempt to blow up the Port Orchard, W. T. lumber mill, by placing powder under the boilers, was made on Sunday night—the better the day the better the deed, we suppose. The explosion blew off a few bricks from the furnace and displaced the boilers, but no other damage was effected. The Port Orchard Mills were the property of Colman & Giddens, whose affairs are now in bankruptcy, and of whose estate the steamer Veruna forms a part.

KOOTENAY.—Mr. Johnson, mail-carrier and expressman, has arrived from Kootenay. He left 75 white and 150 China men at the diggings. The weather was cold and winter had fairly set in. The Deep Shaft Company have bottomed and struck large pay, and the miners are sanguine.

AN English journal considers that there are only two persons in the United States who have not communicated their views on the Byron question to the newspapers, and they are the owners of Cape Cod who went off to England last week. The great mass of opinion in this Province who employ over 47,000 hands, has acquired to itself a wealth that it intends to put up a family residence which is intended to surpass in magnificence any royal palace in Europe. The cost is estimated at seven millions of dollars.

NOCTURNAL THIEVES.—Night before last the clothes lines of one of our citizens were completely stripped. Several instances of this class of thieving have come to our knowledge of late, and we believe the spring-gauge is being resorted to by several, so that the thieves had better look out. In the midst of the holiday rejoicing, we trust the needy and the unfortunate will not be forgotten. The Royal Hospital and the Gael contain many to whom Christmas cheer would be very welcome, and there are some without the portals of those institutions who are really in want.

Do you want a fine turkey, or goose, a brace of hens, or a sucking pig for your Christmas dinner? You so! Then send to Townsend's Pork and Game Depot, corner of Fort and Douglas Street. The report that Lambert, the lion-tamer has been killed at San Francisco by one of his lions, may be true; but we had no mention of it in either our delayed or special dispatches. THE CENTRAL SCHOOL Examination yesterday, was a very successful affair, but a piece of business excludes a report. The Government Geomatic Company will arrive by the next trip of the Guasac, Tel. fair from Portland. His Worship the Mayor presided at the Council meeting last evening.

A Rare Fossil.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—It is not often that I see the Guardian, a paper published at New Westminster; but Saturday's issue of that paper accidentally fell in my way, and a rare treat it proved. It appears that the Hon. H. Holbrook was hounded out of the Municipal Council. An election was held last week, to fill the vacant seat, and Mr. Holbrook was re-elected by acclamation, because there was nobody to oppose him. It may be as well to explain that there are twelve seats, and there are only that number of inhabitants possessing the necessary property qualification, who can be prevailed upon to occupy these seats. No sooner is Mr. Holbrook elected, however, than he rushes into print with a card, tendering his most sincere thanks for their kindness (readily, I should think)—in again replacing him in the most honorable position etc., etc., and telling them that he accepts this generous act as an endorsement of his anti-Confederate views; but the joke is spoiled by a reference to another column of the paper, where it turns out that Mr. Holbrook's proposer and seconder are the strongest Confederationists in the place! But the richest treat is not to be found in Mr. Holbrook's election thanksgiving card. It is to be found in a long-winded letter, in English peculiarly his own, published in the same paper. That letter I will not attempt to criticise. It is above, beyond, below all criticism. I can only recommend every one that can manage to procure a copy of the sheet which contains it to read the indescribably unique document.

INFORMATION WANTED. OF JOHN HOLDEN LAWTON, AGED 25 years, a native of Manchester, England. The last heard of him was in the Royal Hospital at Victoria, Vancouver Island, laid up of a fractured skull, caused by assisting in getting an engine out of the ship RISING SUN. Any information of him will be thankfully received by his father, James M. Lawton, 214 Louisiana, St. Louis, state of Missouri, America. d13 41.

Mineral Boring. THE UNDESIGNED HAVING had many years experience in boring for minerals and enjoyed every facility for acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of the Coal Strata of this Colony, begs to inform parties who are about to prospect for Coal that he is now open for an engagement to bore and sink in readiness to conduct any operation of that nature which may be entrusted to him. MR. J. HICK, Nassau. REFERENCES.—Mr. J. Bryden, Manager V.I.C.; Mr. Robt. Dunsmuir, Manager Harwood Co. d14 2nd 41.

F. DALLY. Desires to inform the Inhabitants of Victoria and its vicinity, that he has returned from the Upper Country with a Choice Collection of

New Photographic Views OF Mountain Scenery and other highly Interesting Subjects. CARTES DE VISITE. GROUPS. And Views taken with the greatest care and in the best style of Photographic Art, and warranted to give satisfaction. The Gallery is situated on Fort street in the City of Victoria, B. C. n17 3m.

ENGLISH AND EUROPEAN NEWS. THE MAIL. A Paper containing the latest and most interesting news from the Times, and is thus rendered a valuable addition to the library of every person residing abroad or in the colonies. The day of publication are Tuesdays and Fridays, on the afternoon, and the price is 6d per copy, or 5s a week post free. Subscribers can obtain THE MAIL through Newspaper Agents, or may have it from the Publishers, on the following terms: at 10s per Annum in Advance, London Post Office.

Only Silver Medal Awarded Paris Exhibition, 1867. Juror, 1862. PURE CHEMICALS & ALL NEW MEDICINES.

T. MORSON & SON, 81, 83, and 124 Southampton Row, Russell Square, London. CHEMICAL WORKS, HORNBY ROAD, AND SUMMERFIELD WORKS, HORNBY ROAD. PURE CHEMICALS AND ALL NEW MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS. FERRO-CHINA, the active digestive principle of the gastric juice; an agreeable and popular remedy for weak digestion. IN FEVERS, WINE, LASSITUDE, and SLEETHING PANCREATIC EMULSION, and PANCREATIC EMULSION, containing the active principle obtained from the Pancreas, by which the digestion and assimilation of fat is effected. SACCHARATED WHEAT BRAN PHOSPHATE, a valuable digestive preparation for infants and children, supplying the elements for the formation of bone. CHLORODYNE (Morson's), the universally approved remedy for all kinds of neuralgia. MORSON'S Emulsion, from Wood T., of which T. M. & Son are the only British Manufacturers. GELATINE, a perfect and economical substitute for Isinglass.

Barnard's Express. DELIVERED WEEKLY. THE Express will be despatched from Victoria every ALTERNATE FRIDAY, commencing November 12th, carrying Mail, Express and Passengers. BARNARD, J. A. BARNARD, 102 BROADWAY, N.Y. HOOP IRON. FOR SALE BY THE UNDESIGNED. ALSO—Round, Square and Flat Iron, Sheet Iron and Canada Plate, in quantities to suit. ENDREY & DURHAM, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200.

The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday, December 29, 1869.

Closé of the Season.

Another 'open season' has gone. The cheery notes of the sweet warbler no longer greet us from leafy bower.

"The dead leaves strew the forest walk, And winter'd are the pale wild flowers; The frost hangs black'ning on the stalk, The dew-drops fall in frozen showers."

Of all the four seasons, this, perhaps, most pregnant with salutary lessons—the most suggestive of serious reflection. Looking back we see

"Flowers in the valley, splendor in the beam, Health in the gale, and freshness in the stream."

Looking around we see

"The forest marks the year's last embers, With a-weeping and a-wining, the yellow and red."

Looking forward we see

"An inter-coming, to rule the varied year, Soften and sad, with all his rising traits, Vapours, and clouds, and storms."

Leaving to the parson the work of impressing the solemn lessons suggested by the season, let us glance at the past summer, in the light of its bearing upon the material prosperity of the colony.

Taking gold mining first in order—not, however, that we deem it first in importance—it must be confessed that the past season has not been one of ascertained success.

Viewed in the light of actual results, it has been one of disappointment. Viewed in the light of future prospects, it has been one of hopeful encouragement.

The Cariboo mines have yielded grudgingly; yet there is consolation in the reflection that faith in the richness and extent of its golden deposits has increased rather than diminished.

Water and capital—which mean much the same thing—alone are needed in order to compel Cariboo to yield up its reluctant treasure in greater abundance than ever; and indications are not wanting that the water and capital essential to a profitable working of the Cariboo mines will be brought to bear before long.

On the southern frontier the gold mines have not quite realized the expectations formed a year ago; yet the yield has been steady, with a better prospect for next season.

In the result of 'Deep Shaf' we have substantial guarantee for better things in the future; and if the trade of those mines were only secured to the colony by the establishment of fiscal communication, the result would exert a felt influence upon general prosperity.

The Big Bend mines, although still regarded with the surly eye of disappointed hopes, have been quietly and unostentatiously rewarding persevering effort.

Perhaps in no other part of the colony has the labor of the gold miner been more highly remunerated than on French Creek.

Looking to the future, Peace River would, however, appear to be the centre of attraction. Where so little is positively known, we do not care to dwell; and it would be well to avoid, as far as possible, building great expectations upon the immediate result of these new discoveries.

There would, indeed, appear to be reason for expecting the development of mines in the country drained by Peace River in no way inferior to those of Cariboo; but a premature rush to a locality so remote, and so ill provided with the necessities of life and of successful mining effort could but result in great hardship to a majority of the eager pursuers, and in general injury to more extended interests.

Turning to an interest which, if somewhat less exciting and attractive than gold mining, possesses far greater colonial importance and conduces far more surely to individual well-being, it is most gratifying to be able to announce that the record of the season, which has just closed is a most encouraging and satisfactory one, in so far as agricultural progress is concerned.

Both on the Mainland and the Island we find a growing disposition to engage in this most independent and desirable of all pursuits. Not only have many fresh accessions been made to the ranks of our sturdy yeomanry, during this year, but there has been a marked advance on the part of all, perceptible in improved husbandry, improved stock, and enlarged operations, as well as in the cultivation of many things hitherto neglected.

This improvement may, perhaps, be attributable chiefly to the undeniable fact that the farmers are rapidly bettering their circumstances, and that, consequently, afford to conduct their operations upon a better scale. It may also, in some measure, be attributable to increased interest and attention resulting from the annual Exhibitions, where a comparison of results cannot fail to inspire healthy emulation among the farmers, stock-raisers and fruit-growers.

The commercial interests of the country cannot, we fear, be said to have undergone any very noticeable improvement during the past season; nor is it reasonable to expect that they will until commerce has been relieved from some of those trammels with which it is fettered.

On the Mainland commerce has doubtless been gradually recovering from the rude shock it received during that crisis brought on by a system of reckless over trading, and is being re-

established upon what we venture to hope will prove a solid and enduring basis. This is also doubtless the case to a greater or less extent in this the chief commercial town; but it is here that the burdensome restrictions under which commerce still languishes make themselves most keenly felt.

The peculiarly favored geographical position of Victoria entitles her merchants to expect a large foreign trade; but such a trade would appear to be almost shut off by the present fiscal system.

Thus, while it may be truthfully asserted that, in so far as local or domestic trade is concerned, Victoria, in common with the rest of the colony, has experienced some measure of recuperation from past disaster, yet a trade presumably larger than what she at present possesses, continues to be completely lost to the colony, through a mistaken fiscal policy.

Taking the record of the past season all in all, it cannot be said to have been favorable in its bearing upon the material prosperity of British Columbia, and we can all find in it abundant cause for gratitude to the Giver of all our good things; and it is to Him, that, at this particular season, we ought especially to offer our devout thanksgivings.

Licensing Court.

The Annual Licensing Court was held yesterday at the Police Barracks. Fifty-five retail licenses were applied for and forty-nine granted. Seven applications were postponed till Thursday next. Seven wholesale licenses were applied for, all of which were granted. Following is the list:

Wholesale: Promis & Saunders, Lowe Bros., H. Nathan, J. & Co., J. Ross, J. B. Stewart, Spratt & Co., Grelley & Fitterer.

Retail: G. Moran, G. Mason, W. C. S. Seelye, J. Strachan, J. Mady, F. Saunders, B. Higgins, Promis & Saunders, P. Gilligan, W. Marsh, C. Bossi, S. Driard, G. Colman, J. D. Johnson, M. D. Chadwick, P. Smith, T. Golden, Townsend & Giffin, T. J. Bruner, G. Richardson, J. Orr, H. E. Levy, A. Astico, James Wilcox, J. Burns, Wm. Nicol, Wm. Reid, P. Steele, P. Griffin, J. Duran, W. Sellack, J. T. Howard, J. Wilkins, M. Rowland, W. Smith, P. Walsh, J. Bland, A. Best, J. Stevens, Geo. Booth, C. B. Brown, H. Wain, J. B. Sere, Patk. Everett, H. Simpson, C. P. Green.

Postponed: Joseph Lowen, F. Sehl, McKean & Trehan, Murphy, Mme. Zinke [Park Hotel], Veldier and T. Healey.

It may be interesting to state that the highest number of retail liquor licenses granted in any one year was in 1864, when 65 houses were licensed. From the number of applications yesterday it would seem that, however other businesses may have declined, the liquor trade has maintained a spirited and successful warfare with hard times.

THE CROWN HOTEL FIRE.—Wm. Young and Thomas Tugwell surrendered to their bail yesterday at the Police Court for further examination on a charge of arson. Inspector Bowden stated that he had fresh evidence to offer for the prosecution and the Magistrate said it would not be necessary for Mr. Drake to address the Bench as there was no light thrown on the origin of the fire, Mr. Drake differed with his Honor. He believed that the fire was accidental, having been caused by the servant-man Johnson while clearing hot ashes from the stove. His Honor said the fire was most mysterious, and he did not now wish to express an opinion upon the guilt or innocence of the accused. The order of the Court was that the accused should enter into their own recognizances to appear in Court again at the expiration of the month. The prisoners signed the usual documents and were discharged.

UNDER THE BAN.—A circumstance recently occurred in Montreal which has given rise to a good deal of discussion, and threatens to occupy the attention of the Civil Courts. The Institut Canadien, a French literary institution of long and good standing, has been for some time under the ban of the English Church, on account of liberal political and religious views, a serious and propagated interference in consecrated ground were refused to all Catholics who continue members of the Institute. Joseph Guibord, during his life a Catholic, and for many years a member of the Institute, recently died, and the Church authorities absolutely refused his remains burial in consecrated ground. This proceeding caused much indignation amongst the more liberal French Canadians, and it is understood that the friends of the deceased would commence legal proceedings against the ecclesiastics.

THE COPPER T. DESTROYER.—A rumor prevailed early yesterday afternoon that the wrecked ship Copper had been picked up near San Juan Island. The presumption at once was that the Copper, after being lighted of the 300 tons of coal, had floated off the reef with the stick and started upon a voyage on her own account with the balance of the cargo. The announcement sent shares up to a fabulous height; but they soon fell below zero when a despatch from the Island was received by Brodick & Co. stating that only the port side of the ship had come ashore. It is supposed that the Copper broke in two at the time of her disappearance from the reef, and that the starboard side was carried down by the weight of the coal.

A. H. Francis, Fort street, has a full assortment of fruits and confectionery for the holidays. No plum puddings or cakes will be perfect except Francis' candied lemon, citron or orange-peel forms a part of it. And as to apples and pears—he challenges the city.

Educational.

A Committee of the Board of Education for Victoria School District, consisting of John G. McKay, John Russell and J. W. Carey, attended the examinations of the Boys' School, Fort street, on the 21st inst, and submitted the following report:

Your Committee, having examined and heard the examination of the scholars attending said school, and their proficiency during the last half year, in the following branches of education: viz. English, English History, Grammar, Geography, Reading, Writing and Bookkeeping, have great pleasure in testifying to the very creditable manner in which the scholars acquitted themselves in the above various branches of learning; and in conclusion, your Committee would further express their great satisfaction at the character of the instruction imparted by the present Teachers, as also at the very successful educational results of their efforts during the past six months.

All of which your Committee respectfully submit.

Signed: JOHN GORDON MCKAY, JOHN RUSSELL, JOSEPH W. CAREY.

To the Board of Education of Victoria School District, 21st Dec. 1869.

THE MASONIC BALL.—The Committee for the Masonic Ball have arranged for an entrance to the hall from Government street through the Colonial Hotel, in which suitable retiring rooms will be secured for the accommodation of the ladies and gentlemen attending the ball. The upper room will also be laid in the Hotel. The ball will be the finest of the year. A final meeting of the committee of arrangements will be held to-day at the Colonial Hotel. It is proper that we should state that the Masonic Ball is not given for the purpose of charity, and that every dollar received for tickets will be expended in providing for the comfort and enjoyment of participants.

AT IT AGAIN.—Our Lilliputian contemporary of the Evening News has another characteristic article on the subject of education. Dwarf as he is, we might have condescended to discuss the subject with our evening contemporary, were such a thing compatible with a proper regard for the public and that respect due to ourselves; but, inasmuch as it is perfectly clear that no good purpose can be served by continuing a discussion with one who persists in a systematic misconception of everything advanced, and in imputing to us what we never said or dreamed of, we must be excused if we prefer in future to deal with the subject of education without any reference whatever to anything emanating from that source.

PUGET SOUND AGRICULTURAL COMPANY'S LANDS.—We understand that the Puget Sound Agricultural Co. are preparing to sell at an early date portions of their lands situated between Victoria city and Esquimalt town. The selling of the lands to settlement will be of immense advantage to the city and environs; most of these lands are bare and may be early converted into market gardens, while for residential purposes the sites are the finest in the colony.

DEACONESSES.—In Liverpool two Low Church dignitaries, the Bishop and Dean of Chester, have been giving addresses in favor of the appointment of Deaconesses—women who are to engage in religious work in schools, hospitals and penitentiaries—only there must be no vows, no confessions, no peculiar costume. They must have the kernel without the shell, in contradistinction to Ritualists, who are thought to have a good deal of the shell and not too much of the kernel.

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Capt. Clarke, arrived from Nanaimo last evening. She brought a few passengers and a freight, chiefly coal, but no news of importance.

SLINGSHOT.—A man was arrested last evening on a charge of assaulting the proprietor of the Alhambra Saloon with a slingshot in the form of a large stone tied in one end of a rag, which he had thrown at the proprietor.

HENRY HEWITT was discharged by the Police Magistrate—no evidence being adduced to connect him with the murder of James Smith two years ago.

TRADES LICENSES.—A great many defaulters in Trades Licenses appeared yesterday before the Magistrate and paid up.

ROYAL HOSPITAL.—Poultry and other delicacies have been presented to the inmates of the Royal Hospital.

THE ISSUES SISTERS continue to improve.

HEROISM OF A GIRL ONLY ELEVEN YEARS OLD.—On Friday of last week a family named Crowley, living at Pugwash, N. S., was aroused from sleep, about 11 p. m., by the cracking sound of fire. Mr. Crowley rushed to the barn, where two of his sons slept to arouse them. On returning he found it impossible to get up stairs, where five of the family were sleeping, or to his father's room, where an old man and a little boy were sleeping together. But at least the cries of Mr. Crowley awakened the eldest daughter, who, rushing to the window was told to throw herself out. The noble child said, 'No, my brother and sister must be saved.' Relying through the smoke and heat, she snatched up her sleeping brother, nine years old, and carried him to the window, from which he contrived to get down. Again she returned—the flames having penetrated the room this time—and taking up her sister 7 years old, she carried her also to the window, and here, says the Rev. Edwin Clay, M. D., the dear girl had more than she could do, for her sister, in her fright, refused to be thrown out, and with the flames coming up around her, she struggled with her until she put her out of the window, and the child fell to the ground. After hanging a moment or two upon the sill she dropped down herself a distance of nearly 16 feet. When she rose from the ground she said, 'I am done mother, but I have saved my sister and brother from being burnt.' With much difficulty and personal risk, Mr. Crowley was all this time endeavoring to save his aged father and son. The night was extremely cold and none of them had saved a particle of clothing. The mother, with her burnt children then walked a distance of half a mile, and I was sent for. In about three hours after the fire I was attending to the suffering children. I saw there was no hope of saving the dear girl, for from her forehead to the bottom of her feet she was one mass of burnt flesh. This with the fearful shock of jumping so far and walking such a distance in the cold, caused her to sink rapidly and at six in the morning she died, aged 11 years and 8 months, a martyr to the love of her brother and sister. I never before saw so much courage and firmness in one so young and white dressing her bruised and burnt limbs, she uttered no complaint. Her sister died in the evening, and the uncle suffered fatally from the effects of jumping out of the window. The rest I hope will recover.—Nova Scotia Paper.

ABERDEEN recently attended the funeral of a friend in Paris and on his way after the church ceremonies were over when some one asked 'Do you not accompany us to the cemetery?' 'No,' was the reply, 'I go no farther than this for other people's funerals. It will be fine enough for the churchyard on my own account.'

Why should people marry? Because ladies want husbands and gentlemen want comforters.

MITCHELL & JOHNSTON, OFFER FOR SALE, Ex-Quolette from London.

WIND-BLOWN GLASS, PUTTY OF SUPERIOR QUALITY, PRESERVE JARS.

THE GARDENER'S FRIEND, FLOWER BOTTLES—London Make.

FOWLER'S INSECTICIDE, REGISTERED SELF-ACTING HAND DRILL.

BLANKETS! TO ARRIVE PER PRINCE OF WALES.

2500 PAIRS, 2 1/2 Point Blankets, Assorted Colors.

HENRY NATHAN, JR. & CO., BLANKETS, HATS, GLOVES, DEBES.

ALL the ingredients for an English plum-pudding may be had at Bell & Co's, Fort street, together with preserved fruits, lemon, orange and vanilla creams and the freshest and best groceries in the city.

ENGLISH BAZAAR!

FORT REEB, VICTORIA.

MRS. JOHNSTON

Has just received from Europe a large assortment of

ELEGANT GOODS

CONSISTING OF

USEFUL AND FANCY ARTICLES, of

Electro-plated Ware

Miscellaneous

Confectionery

More than 200,000 Persons

Dr. Joseph Walker's

VINEGAR BITTERS

DRUGGISTS

DR. RICHARD'S GOLDEN EXTRACTS

DR. RICHARD'S GOLDEN EXTRACTS

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The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday December 29, 1869.

The Morbid Phase.

Truly may it be said that Fenianism in Ireland has received the most fatal wound in the house of its friends. When Royal clemency was asked, even demanded by the Fenians on behalf of their brethren in British bastille confined, nobody was surprised. The act was in perfect harmony with their patriotic professions. But they have gone too far, committed a fatal error in announcing their determination to prevent tenant farmers and others directly interested in agrarian reform holding any more meetings on the subject until the Fenian prisoners are released. In this they virtually assume the government of the country, dictate to the farmers and others what they may and may not do, repress freedom of speech and the liberty of public meetings and discussions, thus seeking to interdict that freedom which they profess to promote. Nor would this declaration of intention appear to be a mere idle threat; as one most diabolical attempt to carry it into effect has been recorded. According to a Dublin telegram, an attempt was made to remove a rail, to throw a train off the line to Haven, which was conveying about seven hundred farmers and five priests to the tenant-right meeting in that town. This fiendish act was fortunately discovered in time to avert consequences fearful to contemplate. Several other minor acts of terrorism, such as assaulting priests and the like, have also been recorded; and the attempt was made to fasten these cowardly outrages upon the Orangemen; but the trick has utterly failed. It would appear that the Fenians fear that the clergy, who have the good of Ireland at heart, may be content to accept constitutional reforms from the hands of the British Government, and that the disestablishment of a hated alien Church and the pending agrarian reforms may render further riotous proceedings altogether unwarranted, and that thus the occupation of these unprincipled agitators will be gone. It will be strange, indeed, if the new attitude assumed by Fenianism in Ireland does not result in the speedy overthrow of the organization. Such acts as those to which we have just referred cannot fail to create strong prejudice in the public mind against Fenianism. The better part of the community will be completely alienated; indeed, the more respectable element in Fenianism itself—if the term can be properly applied to such an organization—must turn away from such atrocities with disgust. Thus, divided amongst themselves, and with a strong current of public opinion setting in against them, Fenianism in Ireland may be considered as having died by its own hands. Let Gladstone and his Cabinet pursue, with firmness and moderation, the even tenor of their way in Irish reforms, and they will not have to wait very long to see public opinion in that island as much opposed to Fenianism as it is in England. Such a revulsion of public sentiment as is likely to be brought about by these atrocities will not only prove the best cure for the plague which has produced them, but it will greatly tend to facilitate their carrying into effect such measures as will render a recurrence of these distressing conditions impossible.

The Michigan Street controversy. Editor BRITISH COLONIST:—As there appears to be some misunderstanding about how Michigan street was graded, and also about a subscription said to have been collected on the street, let me state the facts: In December, 1862, a subscription was made to build the bridge on the sidewalk opposite Mr. Treanor's premises, and in December 1863, another subscription was made by Mr. Tiedeman, and he, as Deputy Road Supervisor, made use of the money in improving the road running in front of his house, which road, according to the maps, has never been honored with a name, and though he gave all his time gratis he did not leave all parties for the property-holders then living at the east end of Quebec street were so justified at his taking away the earth in front of their lots that they refused to contribute what they promised him. The result was that that end of the road remained unfinished for several years, which was a great annoyance to all parties using that road in the winter season. Mr. Tiedeman's intention was to make some part of the road still lower in order to carry off the water from Mr. Lowenberg's land and thus do away with the necessity for the culverts, bridges and deep ditches adjoining Mr. Tiedeman's property and Superior's real. In 1867, when the late Mr. Tidwell as Road Supervisor for that district, he adopted a very sensible and economical system of using the road taxes to improve the roads where he collected the money as near as he could do it, and if all Superintendents would follow that rule there would not be so much grumbling all over the island as there is now. According to this rule the road taxes collected on Michigan street were expended in grading that street, though there was not enough to complete it, and it was done improperly without any regular system, and when the details were shown to Mr. Tidwell he promised to rectify them and finish it in the fall, but before that time arrived he unfortunately lost his life and there was an end to our street grading until lately, when some gravel has been put upon the worst part of it; and the reason why it is the worst part is that all the top soil has been taken off down to the sand and the other part of the street would most likely be as bad if served in the same way. However, if the road officials will gravel the grade ought to be changed, or it will be a greater nuisance to some parts of the street than if it had never been meddled with at all. J. B.

A cantata by Felix Godefrid, performed at the inauguration of a statue to Leopold II, at Namur, is eulogistically spoken of by Belgian musicians. Among its merits are cited certain happy effects of contrast, a fresh and pleasant unaccompanied chorus and a grand finale excellently instrumental.

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The Weekly Wednesday The Way Do our people or know, that the Kootenay is via lumbia River? A is His Excellency have been laying empire on paper, of our territory American neighbor annexed the south Columbia to their only remains to For all practical of Washington T. in common fairne a representative cialature. This is sober truth, the avenues of ac mines. They vly the needs of t work them, t turn. If any of to visit these mi journey through Washington Terr accomplish it. Tre ger occasionally his breeches' poe sons acting as t our Government, he must needs be eign route of trav natory trapper in is this thus? S cial supineness. and better route o through our own would not only s and trade with t the colony, but means of openin many interests of than all the gold This everlasting to ourselves as it Yet the interests volved are so m impelled to contin and enter our pr so unpatriotic an of the best inte We have attrib condition of our southern section official supineness correct to say t been made to est be infinitely more ernment, and cer ory to the colony made. Two atea have been made, misdirection of m which cost the co and eighty the left nothing to merest apology which would req eagey of a naty the endurance a goat. The seco towards explori between Lake S with a view to passes through rangers; and if this is can souve duced, less distre mien. Pithorthe habes and Worc period it was de to be by the up on Surveyor Gea this office was as title as would be wheel to an ord choice of the new the act itself was man chiefly reman ance, was sele and to him work of conduct We will not be ex the details of th duties of that im discharged. The Assistant Survey large staff of att terial for many a miners and trad period. For the that the Assistan exploring the co upon his co couch in his tent, cigars and Hude this spending the ly, the luxurios to head quarters, a glowing and wo cooked up and p complaints in the The reader will t subsequently pro such fiction a surroncing its or to expect. Such nature and resul last effort put for ment, with a view munication with t portant gold-fie frontier. We ma question. If the