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THE WEEKLY COLONIST.
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"PROSPECTING" ON LEECH RIVER.
A sudden increase of wealth is sometimes ruinous. We have all heard of the poor man who, on coming unexpectedly into possession of a legacy, was plunged in melancholy, because it would fall a few pounds short in its annual returns of the sum he desired to expend on his new establishment. While lamenting the sorry trick fate had thus played him, news came that the fortune was double the amount first stated. This, however, instead of mending matters only made them worse; for since he thought it necessary to live in a certain extravagant style on obtaining the former increase of wealth, he felt it now, with double the income, equally incumbent to double the expense; and so he had, a second time, to curse fortune for not giving him enough to meet the demands of his folly. Our Sooke miners furnish us with an equally good illustration of the same disconcerted characteristic of human nature. A month ago \$3 a day diggings would have been a windfall to every able-bodied workman on the island. The face of the most constitutional grumbler would have expanded with the smile of satisfaction, and every prospect of a bright future would have been opened before him.

It is unfortunate that extravagant expectations should have been formed of the newly-discovered gold mines; for, on the first disappointment a reaction will immediately set in, and the sufferers locally, though well adapted to maintain a large and steady population at good wages, will be voted a humbug. We have not arrived at this stage in the Sooke excitement yet, but we may be prepared for numerous complaints from returned adventurers, because the river did not come up to their sanguine expectations. There have been a number of instances where men who were making the comfortable daily wages of \$5, left their work in Victoria and proceeded to the mines. These men would of course expect at the least \$10 a day, on account of the hardships of a miner's life. They do not obtain that amount, and they return disgusted. Leaving out the folly of persons deserting steady and lucrative employment for the uncertain occupation of gold mining, a few hours' work, with very imperfect tools, is scarcely a proper test of a gold-bearing river. There has been too much of the "day's excursion" about Leech river "prospecting." The place is altogether too convenient, and a large number of men leave Victoria with no more idea of working on the river than of flying. If they find the seventy-three dollar nuggets lying about they are determined to pick them up, and will not doubt put themselves to the trouble of carrying them back to Victoria, but to pitch their tent with the determination of giving a month's labor to the creek is about the last thing from their thoughts. It is, therefore, no wonder that we hear from some persons

rather disparaging accounts of the mines, although not one of them will dispute the fact that they afford abundant means of employment for those who are content with ordinary wages. It is this circumstance above all others which gives us such hope in the Vancouver Island gold mines. The diffusion of the precious metal is so wide in fact, that no man who works need be without sufficient to cover his expenses, while the chances of finding rich deposits are just as great for the work required to be done, as in other gold countries. From the commencement of the rush to Sooke river up to the present time, we will venture to say few creeks anywhere have turned out more gold, and diffused it more generally in proportion to the number of men and the amount of work performed. All we require is a population not carried away by the idea of turning up lumps of gold, but willing and able to work, and who will be quite content to make good wages. We do not want the miners of Leech river to despise nuggets; but we hope that a fair recompense will not be undervalued because some portions of the mines may be unusually rich; and we are also anxious, for the sake of the pockets of the adventurers, and the reputation of the diggings, that henceforward no one will start to mine in the Sooke district unless he is prepared to work, is properly supplied with tools, and can stand the outlay of a month's provisions.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.
The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster on Saturday, at 4:30 p. m., with 31 passengers and a small amount of treasure per Dietz & Nelson's express. We have dates from Cariboo to the 4th inst., with correspondence from our "special" giving the latest news from the mines, the reception of Governor Seymour, &c.

CARIBOO LETTER.
[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]
RICHFIELD, Aug. 4.
There is rather a dearth of mining news. Nothing definite has yet been heard from the prospectors who went out in search of the placer diggings. Governor Seymour's Arrival. Paramount in importance as affecting mercantile as well as the mining interests of the Colony is the arrival of His Excellency on Monday evening the 1st inst., and was enthusiastically received. Since his stay here he has visited the mines, and was very successful. From a pan of dirt which he himself dug and washed out he got \$51. Yesterday he attended a meeting at the hospital, and also visited the library. This evening he is to be present at a public dinner given by the miners in honor of his visit. On Friday the 5th (to-morrow) he is intended to leave for New Westminster, which to the disappointment of many who expected he would have remained in Cariboo a week at least. The necessary fatigue and hardship which His Excellency has patiently undergone in his recent journey; and the spirit of enquiry displayed by him in all matters affecting in any degree the welfare of the community, augur well for the future of the Colony. A practical knowledge of its resources and its wants, will prove invaluable, and future administration will no doubt assume a shape that will successfully develop the innate vigor of this young giant offspring of the Mistress of the Seas. His Excellency has made many friends, and his visit to Williams Creek will long be remembered with pleasure by the miners of Cariboo. Lieut. Cooper, Royal Marines, and Mr. Evans, constitute his Excellency's suite. The former gentleman is almost at home on the Creek, as his friends are legion. Mr. Evans is of course a stranger, but in his short stay he has made many friends. The following address, to his Excellency, was delivered by the Mining Board through their chairman Dr. Black. To His Excellency Frederick Seymour, Esquire, Governor of British Columbia, &c. The Mining Board of the District of Cariboo East, beg to welcome your Excellency to the interior and remote district of the country, and to congratulate their fellow subjects upon the arrival of a representative of the Crown, who demonstrates, by his own early acts, his interest in the country and people, whose prosperity and well-being have been entrusted to his care. Widely separated from the mother country by an intervening continent and ocean, we cannot feel otherwise than solicitous upon the arrival of any person in whom the supreme executive power of the colony has been, for the time being, vested. The early tour, therefore, of your Excellency to the remote interior of the colony, the seat of its present and prospective wealth, while it enables your Excellency to become better acquainted with the country, its resources and capabilities; with the people, their wants, and necessities, demonstrates to your earnest desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of the country over which you have been called to preside. The colony of British Columbia, like all other countries lying upon the Pacific slope of the American continent, is mountainous in its general topographical features, and richly stored with mineral wealth. While there-

fore, agriculture, manufactures and commerce may flourish within our borders, yet, taken by an irrevocable decree, has determined the paramount interest of the colony, and the permanent vocation of the mass of its population. Mining in its various forms, first for the precious metals, and afterwards for the base, but more useful minerals, must continue to absorb, in a great degree, the attention and capital of the population. Gold mining is peculiar, and differs from all other vocations of man, requiring for its successful prosecution, wise legislation and sound executive administration. It impresses its peculiarities upon its votaries, changing their character, habits and feelings; it makes them excitable and unsteady in character, nomadic in habits, impulsive in their feelings, and exclusive in their associations; and we are happy to know that your Excellency has taken this peculiar habit of studying the country, the people, and the mining law now in force here. Called into existence by a general conviction of the imperfections and inapplicability of our system of mining laws, the Mining Board has not yet had time to mature and perfect the reforms demanded by its constantly increasing experience. Indeed it will hardly be doubted, that so long as new districts may be discovered, new methods of mining may be adopted, and new evils arise to be avoided, the necessity of a board of practical miners to digest and adopt new regulations, and to provide against existing hardships, and to submit the results of their experience and observation to the Legislative Council of the Colony, will continue to exist. Hoping that we may enjoy the wisdom of your Excellency's advice, and that your administration may be successful and prosperous, we beg to subscribe ourselves your Excellency's obedient servants. A. H. S. BLACK, Chairman, WILLIAM HESLINGTON, GEO. DEFF, FRED. BLACK, W. MOXAMBER, JOHN POLMER, DAVID GAIR. Richfield, Aug. 3rd, 1864.

The following reply was made by His Excellency: Reply. Gentlemen of the Mining Board of Cariboo, I receive with great pleasure the congratulatory address you have been kind enough to present to me on my first visit to the mining districts of the colony. I had fully intended to place myself in communication with you, and I am glad that our intercourse has commenced in a manner so gratifying to me. You may be sure that so long as I hold my present office my utmost efforts shall be devoted to the promotion of the interests of British Columbia. Though I have only been here a very few months, it has already fallen to my lot to visit the mines, and was very successful. From a pan of dirt which he himself dug and washed out he got \$51. Yesterday he attended a meeting at the hospital, and also visited the library. This evening he is to be present at a public dinner given by the miners in honor of his visit. On Friday the 5th (to-morrow) he is intended to leave for New Westminster, which to the disappointment of many who expected he would have remained in Cariboo a week at least. The necessary fatigue and hardship which His Excellency has patiently undergone in his recent journey; and the spirit of enquiry displayed by him in all matters affecting in any degree the welfare of the community, augur well for the future of the Colony. A practical knowledge of its resources and its wants, will prove invaluable, and future administration will no doubt assume a shape that will successfully develop the innate vigor of this young giant offspring of the Mistress of the Seas. His Excellency has made many friends, and his visit to Williams Creek will long be remembered with pleasure by the miners of Cariboo. Lieut. Cooper, Royal Marines, and Mr. Evans, constitute his Excellency's suite. The former gentleman is almost at home on the Creek, as his friends are legion. Mr. Evans is of course a stranger, but in his short stay he has made many friends. The following address, to his Excellency, was delivered by the Mining Board through their chairman Dr. Black. To His Excellency Frederick Seymour, Esquire, Governor of British Columbia, &c. The Mining Board of the District of Cariboo East, beg to welcome your Excellency to the interior and remote district of the country, and to congratulate their fellow subjects upon the arrival of a representative of the Crown, who demonstrates, by his own early acts, his interest in the country and people, whose prosperity and well-being have been entrusted to his care. Widely separated from the mother country by an intervening continent and ocean, we cannot feel otherwise than solicitous upon the arrival of any person in whom the supreme executive power of the colony has been, for the time being, vested. The early tour, therefore, of your Excellency to the remote interior of the colony, the seat of its present and prospective wealth, while it enables your Excellency to become better acquainted with the country, its resources and capabilities; with the people, their wants, and necessities, demonstrates to your earnest desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of the country over which you have been called to preside. The colony of British Columbia, like all other countries lying upon the Pacific slope of the American continent, is mountainous in its general topographical features, and richly stored with mineral wealth. While there-

THE HAREWOOD COAL MINE.
The following letter from an experienced Welsh miner appears in the 'Columbian' of Saturday: "The Victoria papers are too much occupied with their prodigious gold discoveries at Sooke to pay any attention to their coal mines, which are much more important. They have certainly got a very fine coal field in Vancouver Island. As there is at present a good deal of speculation in this town about coal and coal mines, I beg to lay before your readers a few facts which I noted when I was at Nanaimo on Saturday last. I went over the Harewood mine with Mr. Robert Dunsmyth, the agent, and another gentleman. I have had a good deal of experience in coal mines, and according to my ideas, the Harewood mine offers more facilities for working than any other mine on the Pacific coast. The seam runs due north, dipping up from the sea. The slope is of very great advantage for the miners, as the company can tunnel instead of sinking a shaft, and so can draw their coal out instead of raising it; and again, they can drain a very large extent of ground; a mile and a half by three miles, from one opening, without being obliged to use pumps or any engines whatsoever. A tunnel is much safer for men to work in than a shaft, and this is a better tunnel than ordinary, for above the seam of coal is a good sandstone formation, which obviates the necessity of using any timber to hold the top. Not that timber is dear in this country, but the labor is. As far as I could judge by a cursory inspection the coal is of an excellent quality, with very little sulphur in it, and I think that it is very good for making steam. Much credit is due to Mr. Dunsmyth for his skill in tracing the seam. He has not been sinking holes here and there, as a less experienced man might have done, but he has followed the lead most persistently and to a successful issue. Hoping that this may interest some of our present coal explorers, who I hope will meet with luck, I conclude with yours truly, JOHN RENN PRICE."

FROM PORTLAND.
Our files of the Oregonian are to the 8th. The latest Eastern news received in Portland to that date has already appeared in the Colonist. TELEGRAPHIC CABLE.—The steamship Oregon brought two very heavy coils of telegraphic cable to this city, on her last trip, for the extension to Victoria. One of these coils contains about six tons weight, and one about 2,800 lbs. It is of the same character of cable as that which now lies imbedded in the Atlantic, but where it was attempted to be united to the mother country with America. We trust that under the direction of Super-

the above low ground, sloughs and the Columbia river. THE PACIFIC LOADER.—We learn that a telegram was received in this city on Friday the effect that the steamer Pacific was already freighted for 100 dry loads of goods, and freight had to be refused. The steamer would not, however, for some reason, sail until to-morrow. It is said there is an immense quantity of goods awaiting transportation to this region. ASTORIA MARINE GAZETTE.—This is the title of a weekly paper just started at Astoria, by a gentleman of the name of Johnson, who has Lincoln and Johnson at its head. The Marine Gazette says that the bark Almy is now discharging the heavy guns designed for the Forts at Point Adams and Cape Haddock. KOOTANIA.—We, Oregonians, have seen a gentleman direct from the Kootania mines, and talked about the "improved manner" of the Keatsarge, and the general notion is, that the vessel was hastily protected by chain cables shortly before the late action. Now, I have closely examined the Keatsarge about three months since. I saw her in the water and I saw her on a pontoon. She was then protected amidships by heavy chain cables, and paid with some red composition, the cable being covered with planking, a piece of which had been knocked off. Very few people are aware that the Keatsarge was several days in the Victoria Dock, at Blackwall. It was there that I saw her, and there it was that the Admiralty officers obtained full particulars as to her armament and the nature of the protection given to her engines. She is a long sloop, rather well-sided, barque-rigged, painted black, and looks very much more like an armed screw collier than a man-of-war.

The bazaar in Hanover-square Rooms in aid of the Asylum for Idiots has been opened to-day by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, who, accompanied by the Prince, arrived at half past twelve, attended by the Marchioness of Caermarthen and Captain Grey, and was received by the committee, the band playing "God save the Queen." The stalls were draped in pink and white, and were very attractively furnished with things as beautiful as useful. A large number of ladies were present, admitted by ticket or payment, to sit in the orchestra and look at the Princess as she, with her suite, visited the various stalls, and made a few selections, beginning at the stalls on the right of the entrance facing the Royal box. After remaining for a considerable time their Royal Highnesses took their leave, and the regular business commenced.

It is stated by Mr. Alderman Mechi that a good deal of land about the Royal Exchange is now worth one million five hundred pounds per acre, and that a site in that neighborhood about the size of a nobleman's drawing-room, would command a ground rental of £1000 per annum, equal to the rental of a thousand acre farm.

ENGLISH MAIL SUMMARY.
London, Saturday Evening, July 2.
The disbelief in the maintenance of peace, says our correspondent, has never been greater in Paris. England, although she has sacrificed her honor, has not thereby removed the causes of war. Still there exists that vague fear—too probably the shadow of coming events—of a general uprising in Europe, the end of which the astute statesman or politician may not venture to predict. An anecdote goes the round of political circles in the French capital just now, presumed to be explanatory of the policy of our own Government at the present moment. It is to the effect that an eminent statesman said, the other day, in his drawing-room, something like this: "Perish Denmark! We must not miss our gross shooting." It is rumored that M. Drouyn de Lhays is shortly to be succeeded in the Foreign Office by Prince de Talleyrand.

The inquest at Plymouth on the body of Mr. Coy, the waterman who was killed by a shot from the citadel, was brought to a close yesterday after five adjournments. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Major-General Hutchinson, the General commanding the district, expressing an opinion that he was guilty of great negligence and indifference to the public safety.

A sad accident, by which six colliers were killed at a pit near Wigan, took place yesterday. It appears that eight men were descending the shaft, when the cage in which they rode came in contact with something, by which it was tilted over, and six of its inmates thrown to the bottom and killed.

At an early hour yesterday morning, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales made a general inspection of the fire establishments throughout the metropolis. His Royal Highness was attended by the Duke of Sutherland, Prince Leiningen, and Lord Richard Grosvenor. The party were received at the headquarters of the establishment in Watling street, by Captain Shaw, and they rode on fire engines from one station to another. After witnessing the operations of the brigade they were returning home on a fire-engine, when one of the horses slipped in the Strand, and the distinguished party were obliged to alight and drive home in cabriolet. The visit took place at such an early hour, that few persons were aware of the circumstances. His Royal Highness visited several other places in the course of the day.

The polling for the office of Sheriff closed yesterday, when the two aldermen, Bealey and Dakin, were elected.

The show of horses at the Agricultural Hall opened yesterday, when a large number of visitors, including many members of the aristocracy, attended. There are upwards of 300 animals exhibited, all of a high standard of merit, as may be inferred from the fact that the judges were unable to find a single

bankers and merchants in Paris, of all kinds of other goods to the value of \$20,000, were brought before Mr. Alderman Stone at the Mansion House yesterday, and further evidence having been adduced, the alderman committed all three for trial. A man named Seymour was brought up before the chief magistrate at Bow street, on a charge of enlisting men for the Confederate service. From the evidence it appeared that four men were engaged by him to go as firemen in a steamer named the Gappan, but applied to the officers of the Rampanthorpe Confederate steamer, who repudiated the engagement made by Seymour. The men came home, and appear to have informed against their employer. He was committed for trial.

A correspondent of the London Standard, signing himself, J. L., writes as follows: "A great deal of nonsense has been written and talked about the 'improved manner' of the Keatsarge, and the general notion is, that the vessel was hastily protected by chain cables shortly before the late action. Now, I have closely examined the Keatsarge about three months since. I saw her in the water and I saw her on a pontoon. She was then protected amidships by heavy chain cables, and paid with some red composition, the cable being covered with planking, a piece of which had been knocked off. Very few people are aware that the Keatsarge was several days in the Victoria Dock, at Blackwall. It was there that I saw her, and there it was that the Admiralty officers obtained full particulars as to her armament and the nature of the protection given to her engines. She is a long sloop, rather well-sided, barque-rigged, painted black, and looks very much more like an armed screw collier than a man-of-war."

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The bazaar in Hanover-square Rooms in aid of the Asylum for Idiots has been opened to-day by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, who, accompanied by the Prince, arrived at half past twelve, attended by the Marchioness of Caermarthen and Captain Grey, and was received by the committee, the band playing "God save the Queen." The stalls were draped in pink and white, and were very attractively furnished with things as beautiful as useful. A large number of ladies were present, admitted by ticket or payment, to sit in the orchestra and look at the Princess as she, with her suite, visited the various stalls, and made a few selections, beginning at the stalls on the right of the entrance facing the Royal box. After remaining for a considerable time their Royal Highnesses took their leave, and the regular business commenced.

It is stated by Mr. Alderman Mechi that a good deal of land about the Royal Exchange is now worth one million five hundred pounds per acre, and that a site in that neighborhood about the size of a nobleman's drawing-room, would command a ground rental of £1000 per annum, equal to the rental of a thousand acre farm.

rather disparaging accounts of the mines, although not one of them will dispute the fact that they afford abundant means of employment for those who are content with ordinary wages. It is this circumstance above all others which gives us such hope in the Vancouver Island gold mines. The diffusion of the precious metal is so wide in fact, that no man who works need be without sufficient to cover his expenses, while the chances of finding rich deposits are just as great for the work required to be done, as in other gold countries. From the commencement of the rush to Sooke river up to the present time, we will venture to say few creeks anywhere have turned out more gold, and diffused it more generally in proportion to the number of men and the amount of work performed. All we require is a population not carried away by the idea of turning up lumps of gold, but willing and able to work, and who will be quite content to make good wages. We do not want the miners of Leech river to despise nuggets; but we hope that a fair recompense will not be undervalued because some portions of the mines may be unusually rich; and we are also anxious, for the sake of the pockets of the adventurers, and the reputation of the diggings, that henceforward no one will start to mine in the Sooke district unless he is prepared to work, is properly supplied with tools, and can stand the outlay of a month's provisions.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.
The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster on Saturday, at 4:30 p. m., with 31 passengers and a small amount of treasure per Dietz & Nelson's express. We have dates from Cariboo to the 4th inst., with correspondence from our "special" giving the latest news from the mines, the reception of Governor Seymour, &c.

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, August 16, 1864.

THE NEWS.

The Eastern intelligence brought to us last evening by H. M. S. Devastation is up to the 6th inst. Full details are given of the recent attack on Petersburg, after the explosion of the Confederate redan. The attack, it would seem, was badly managed, the troops becoming demoralized when almost in possession of the coveted heights which command the city. The old fear of the "mine," which has been the most fertile creator of panics, had its effect on the colored troops, who were in the advance, and back they came pell-mell, driving everything into confusion. At this juncture, the Confederates poured in a destructive fire, and the Federals were obliged to relinquish the position they had obtained, having lost in the attack 2,600 men. The Southern troops acknowledge a loss of 3,000, caused principally by the explosion and the dreadful fire which immediately followed from the 120 Federal guns.

From Sherman's command there is intelligence of a serious disaster which happened during the raiding party under General McCook. After destroying about eighteen miles of the Macon railway, and otherwise doing considerable damage to Hood's communications, McCook was attacked by a superior force under the Confederate General Ransom, and lost a large portion of his command. Rumors were current that reinforcements had reached Atlanta from Beauregard's army and from Mobile, which, if true, may retard Sherman's progress very materially. Hood, however, if we may judge of his recent fighting, is not disposed to value his men very highly, and it is just possible that his rashness will more than counterbalance the gain of obtaining reinforcements. His recent losses, if the despatches are anything near the mark, have been extravagantly severe. The forwarding of troops from Mobile to Atlanta may probably precipitate the long-talked-of Federal attack on the former city—the number of Confederate troops within its limits now being but two brigades.

From the Shenandoah and along the Pennsylvania and Maryland borders, the accounts from the raiders show that they are still in numbers large enough to harass their Northern enemy. Some engagements had been won by one side, and offset by victories on another; but it is evident that the Southern troops will manage to get the harvest of the Shenandoah valley. There is but little fresh news from Grant's army beyond the report of Meade being superseded. On the whole, the intelligence rather favors the South, and would indicate that some important and fresh combinations are in course of operation on both sides.

A "BARK RACE."—During the recent exploration made by Messrs. Street, Munro, Dr. McCandless and Ochsner, for an overland trail to the mines, we learn that the party resisted an unexpected and unwelcome visitor at their camp. The weary travellers had all retired for the night when one of the party was aroused by shouts from a more wakeful companion, and "thinking he was thrown at his head," he was the subject of some practical joking the slumberer drew his blanket over his head and necked down again into balmy repose. In the morning he was horrified to learn that two bright eyes had been observed glistening close to his head. Mr. Munro sat with a cocked revolver ready to retaliate his banishment with a blue pill in case he intruded his presence too far. The travellers had neglected to keep their camp fire burning, as a caution to all denizens of the forest to keep at a respectful distance.

DEATH OF A CANADIAN.—A man named Michael Jordan, a native of Canada West, owning a ranch in Idaho Territory, was killed by the Indians on the 9th of July. The savages had made a descent on his farm, killing a man, and driving off some 40 horses and mules, upon which Jordan organized a party of thirteen men, and attacked them while they were intrrenched in a ravine, to the number of two hundred. After fighting bravely for some time against these tremendous odds, a bullet pierced Jordan's heart, and he fell dead amongst the lurking red devils, his party being obliged to retreat. He was highly esteemed by his neighbors as a valiant and generous man.

SPORT AT THE MINES.—Elk, deer, and fish are said to abound at the Leech river mines, and the miners are now supplied by Indians with venison, said to be as fat as good mutton. Salmon trout are caught in the river in large quantities in the river, and afford a most agreeable change to the simple and unvaried fare upon which miners and others are at present compelled to subsist.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO KOOTANAI.—We understand upon good authority that Mr. Birch, Colonial Secretary of British Columbia, will proceed on an official visit to the Kootanai mines upon the return of Governor Seymour from Cariboo, with a view to ascertain the best line of road to these mines.

DR. DE WOLFE.—The Seattle Gazette says Dr. De Wolfe is lecturing in that vicinity with success; the residents in and around Utsalady have published in the Gazette a series of resolutions thanking the Doctor for his gratuitous efforts for their enlightenment.

POSTMASTER AT SPOKE.—Mr. Stuart, of the firm of Elliott, Stuart & Co., was yesterday appointed by His Excellency the Governor to be acting Postmaster at Spoke.

Later Eastern News.

(DATES TO THE 5th AUGUST.)

Particulars of the Petersburg Fight.

DISASTER TO GEN. MCCOOK.

RAIDING IN THE SHENANDOAH.

Reinforcements at Atlanta.

Grant and Sherman's Commands.

The following intelligence was received by the arrival of the Devastation Wednesday:

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

CHICAGO, Aug. 3.—Details of the engagements before Petersburg were received this morning, from which we condense the following: The attacking column was composed of the 9th, 1st, and 2nd brigades of Ledley's division, followed by the 35th Massachusetts, provided with entrenching implements, who were pushed forward to a charge. They had moved but a few yards when they received a tremendous volley from the enemy, who had doubtless been put on the alert through the noise made by the concentration of the troops and movements of the artillery and trains during the night so close to their front. The explosion, although it had destroyed the rebel redan, had not touched the mounted abatis and obstructions in its front, and the assailants had great trouble in making their way through them. A part of the attacking column advanced some distance to the right of the fort, and carried part of two lines of the breastworks connecting the fort with the main rebel line, to the rear of it. About 25 rebel prisoners were captured in the entrenchments and rifle pits, and sent to the rear. As soon as the troops reached the works, the enemy commenced a heavy musketry fire from the sides of the angle which the breastworks formed. In the rear of the fort several batteries opened with shell and grape shot. Notwithstanding the tremendous fire directed against the rebel line by our heavy and light batteries, the enemy's fire became so intensified that the advance of our column toward Cemetery Hill (about 400 yards beyond the fort) which they were ordered to carry, was checked. The column halted, and the men sought refuge behind the ruins of the work, in the breastworks and rifle pits behind them. Two minutes after Ledley's division had moved to the attack, Porter's and Wilcox's division of the same corps moved to the right and left of the fort. Several attempts were made to continue the assault, but all failed under the sweeping fire of the enemy.

About six o'clock, one of Gen. Ferrero's colored divisions was ordered to move forward to the right of the fort upon Cemetery Hill, and advanced steadily until it got under an enfilading fire of the enemy, which instead of keeping to the right of the other divisions, the negroes became much confused, and rushed pell-mell among the other troops in and about the fort. The interior of the latter, after the explosion, had the form of a crater, the upper part being about 60 feet in diameter. It was already crowded from top to bottom with troops. The negroes rushed in from all sides in a state of terror and confusion. The enemy in the meantime, as could be plainly seen from our main line, rapidly moved their forces from the right and left to the threatened part of their line in and about the fort. Now, both the infantry and artillery became more and more severe, and again and again an attempt was made to charge from the front, but the troops could not do it. Small parties commenced trying to run back from the fort to our main line, and they became more and more numerous. Quite a number of them managed to get through the distance from the fort to our main line, about 150 yards. Our men in running back had to go over a field swept by the rebel fire, and hundreds of them were killed and wounded. The enemy perceiving the confused condition of our troops, resorted to the offensive, and advanced several times from their lines, but were driven back by our fire. About 10 o'clock, however, when most of the batteries had ceased firing, they made a grand charge and occupied most of the ground in the rear of the fort. No sooner had their yells and volleys announced their charge than a vast swarm of our men, mostly negroes, were seen rushing out from under cover towards our lines, and half of them were shot down. As stated heretofore, in giving the order to attack, the Fifth Corps was massed on the left of the Ninth, with the Eighteenth on its right, and the Second in reserve. When it was ascertained, about 7 o'clock, that the Ninth Corps was not making any headway in supporting the attack, Porter's and Trower's division was pushed forward and gained a position far in advance of that held by the Ninth Corps, but that had no decisive effect, and the numbers of the Ninth Corps in and about the fort became materially reduced by 10 o'clock by the men falling back to the main line. What remained continued to hold their position until about 11 o'clock, when an order was received for them to fall back to their original position. The order was executed by all except that part in the rebel fort, and efforts were made to get the order to them but several officers in attempting to carry it out were shot down. Shortly afterwards the rebels made another charge which partly succeeded.

FROM CANNON'S COMMAND.

MEMPHIS, August 1.—The Jackson Mississippi of the 24th, says communication with Atlanta is out off. General Washburne is organizing a new expedition of an important nature, which will be commanded by General Smith. Guerrillas continue their depredations on the leased plantations in the vicinity of Vicksburg and Natchez.

VICKSBURG, August 2.—The sending of the Nineteenth Army Corps to the Army of the Potomac will probably oblige General Canby to suspend offensive operations at present, and he will be directed mainly to holding his own.

By a recent arrival from the upper Red river we learn that Missouri is much talked of by the rebel officers as a point of attack, and that at least 20,000 recruits have been promised there. General Canby is in command of the forces of the Arkansas, with the view of countering rebel designs.

MEMPHIS, August 3.—Great activity is manifest in military circles, carrying out the new movements. Reliable information states that the rebel General S. D. Lee, has been relieved of his command in Alabama and Mississippi and East Louisiana, and ordered to report at Atlanta. It is supposed he takes Hood's old command. Forrest is charged with the responsibility of the recent defeat at Meridian a week ago. Forrest's wound is sufficiently severe to keep him from active service. The rebels are in command of the forces of the rebels west of the Mississippi river, and expected to cross the stream and reinforce Atlanta. A gentleman who left Mobile on the 31st, says Hood had been reinforced by two divisions from Beauregard's corps, from Richmond, and two brigades from Mobile. Charles and Wilcox's divisions are said to be nearly divested of troops, and the garrison at Mobile consists of only two brigades of regulars and the Mobile militia. So great were the fears that Mobile would be attacked between the 8th and 15th of July, that at urgent solicitation of the Governor and Mayor, the troops which had been sent to reinforce Forrest were recalled.

CAIRO, August 5.—New Orleans dates of the 29th ult., states that Banks has officially acknowledged the exchange of prisoners recently arrived, and ordered that these be sent to their proper officers for duty. Those whose terms have expired proceed to their respective State and be mustered out of service. Lieutenant Governor Wells has issued a proclamation directing the election on the first Monday in September, for the ratification or rejection of the State Constitution.

THE RAIDERS OF THE SHENANDOAH.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.—The Tribune's special dispatch from Frederick last evening has the following confirmation of the reported defeat of the rebels at Cumberland: General Kelly, it is reported, was attacked at Cumberland yesterday at 6 p. m. by a large force under Bradley Johnson and McCandless. After a severe fight of several hours he completely routed the enemy, capturing several caissons, a great many wagons and a vast amount of plunder which they had stolen in part of the troops, which led to the disaster at Petersburg, was the belief that the hill which they were expected to take, and which commanded the rebel works and the town had been previously mined by the rebels. For this reason the troops could not be induced to finish their work, and a demoralization was created which lost them the fruits of victory when it was within their grasp.

NEW YORK, August 5.—A special despatch to the Tribune says there is good reason for believing that the rebels are mining our earthworks in front of Petersburg, and measures have been taken which will render operations of that sort futile. The reports that Hooker was to relieve Meade are incorrect. Hooker was relieved by Sherman and sent to Washington.

FROM SHERMAN'S COMMAND.

CHICAGO, August 3.—A despatch of last night says that Hooker has been relieved of his command. The despatch says that his action resulted from a feeling on his part that an indignity had been done him in appointing Gen. Howard his junior in rank, to the command of the Army of the Tennessee.

LOUISVILLE, August 3.—The Nashville Union of to-day says that apparently well-authenticated but unofficial information has been received at Louisville that not only cut the Macon railroad, but has defeated Wheeler with a loss of from 500 to 1000 men, at Proctor's Creek. The rebel leader was wounded, and fell into our hands.

NASHVILLE, August 4.—General Stoneman sent a force of cavalry, of Long's and Lagrange's brigades, 3200 strong, on the 28th of July, under command of General E. McCook, to destroy the Macon and Western Railroad. They had destroyed eighteen miles of the railroad, and started to capture a train of 100 wagons going from Atlanta to Macon or Columbus. McCook captured the train near Newman, with 500 men, including 127 officers. The wagons were laden with valuable stores, including liquors, and the private property of General Hood and others. After possessing themselves of what they wanted, the wagons were burned.

McCook started to return with the prisoners and three thousand mules, but was overtaken by the rebels under Hanson so large as to completely surround him. A desperate engagement followed, during which many of McCook's men escaped and found their way to Marietta. The number of Federals captured is supposed to reach two thousand. This disaster is attributed to the troops' not taking too freely of the liquors found in the captured train. Long's brigade consisted of the Third and Fourth Ohio, the Second Indiana, and Fourth Regulars.

NASHVILLE, August 5.—General McCook, supposed to have been captured near Newman, came in with 1000 of his men—500 had previously arrived at Marietta. As reported, he was very successful in breaking the Macon railroad, capturing and destroying a wagon and railroad train. He was obliged to let his prisoners go.

An Atlanta special despatch says the rebels admit a loss of 6000 in the battle at Peace Creek on July 20th. It says that the rate Hood has been fighting since he took command, the rebel army will last just three weeks. Prisoners report the army as disheartened with Hood.

FROM CANBY'S COMMAND.

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a force of 35,000 to 40,000 strong, who are engaged threshing wheat. He takes every tenth bushel, besides levying a tax for the labor performed.

A special dispatch to the Tribune, from Chambersburg the 3d, says the lights of a large fire in a northwesterly direction are visible, supposed to be the Big Pond Furnace. They can be distinctly seen from this place. The whereabouts of the rebels is not known.

It is generally understood that Early's force in the Shenandoah Valley consists of 35,000. Military movements are being made to make him change his position. BALTIMORE, August 5th.—A person who left Charlesown, Va., early yesterday morning, reports that the rebel forces composed of Mealy's and Imboden's cavalry and mounted infantry, estimated at seven thousand, were then crossing the river at Hancock Ferry, while Early with 12,000 infantry, was guarding the plunder at Bunker Hill, and was about starting up the valley. The rebels scattered through the valley, gathering grain and cattle, and would rejoin Ewell in his march. The rebels conscripted all the men they could find, and even boys of sixteen. It is believed that the rebels will retire up the valley as soon as the trains are well advanced.

HARRISBURG, August 5th.—Despatches received here this morning state that the rebels were then crossing the river at Hancock and had driven Averill's pickets into Cumberland.

Some official despatches states that the rebels had occupied Hagerstown in force. The greatest consternation prevails in the southern portion of Cumberland County. Governor Curtin has issued a proclamation calling out thirty thousand militia.

PHILADELPHIA, August 5.—A report, based on good authority, says that the rebels had crossed the Potomac at Hancock, yesterday, several thousand strong. It is reported that there was a fight at New Creek yesterday afternoon, the result not known.

NEW YORK, August 5.—The Post's special despatch says advices have been received that a cavalry fight took place on the New Jerusalem road, on Wednesday, in which the rebels were defeated. Our loss was seventy-five.

THE ALLEGED NORTHWESTERN CONSPIRACY.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 5.—The Democrat of this morning contains the essential points of the confession of B. Smith, Secretary of the Order of American Knights, as well as those of Charles S. Hunt, and Uhas. E. Dunn, Grand and Deputy Grand Commander. They also asked for re-examination, in which they acknowledged their former statements to be untrue, and admitted the existence of the Order, and their membership of it. This confession gives many interesting details of the workings and purposes of the Order, but no new facts of importance have been revealed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 3.—Advices have been received from the Plains to the effect that the Apaches, Comanches, and Arapahoes, numbering nearly 1,000, are committing serious depredations on the Santa Fe road. All the horses and mules belonging to Fort Larned, and 150 horses belonging to the Colorado Rangers, were captured within a quarter of a mile of the Fort. In addition to this, emigrants have been robbed, and their wagons destroyed. At last accounts, the Indians were threatening the fort, where but 75 men were stationed. \$100,000 worth of property, including twenty-five thousand dollars of Fort Larned a few days before committing these deeds.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 4.—Col. Baker, Chief of the National Detective Police, who has been here for several days on official business, has succeeded in luring out the most extensive and successful gang of counterfeiters ever known in the United States. Fourteen of the gang are in double irons. Five large boxes of their materials are now on the way to Washington. Eleven presses, and a large quantity of bank-note paper, ink, twelve plates, including twenty-five thousand dollars of \$5 and \$10 U. S. Treasury Notes, of the new issue, were secured.

NEW YORK, Aug. 4.—A riot occurred in this city to-day, between the soldiers and negroes, in which two of the former were killed, and several wounded. The dwellings of the negroes were burned by the soldiers, who were willingly assisted by seceding sympathizers.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

NEW YORK, July 24.—The Manhattan, from Liverpool, July 12th, and Queenstown the 13th, has arrived. It is stated that hostilities in Denmark are suspended pending peace negotiations. The new Danish Cabinet is represented as being in favor of peace.

A person named Spencer, in a published letter, contends for joint mediation being offered by Austria and Prussia to America. In Parliament, after a great debate the previous week, there was a decided majority for the Ministry. It is considered that this will settle the Opposition for the remainder of the session, which closes in July.

Palmerston, in reply to an inquiry, said the Government believed the Germans had no intention of attacking Copenhagen.

FATHERS POINT, July 25.—The Belgian, from Liverpool July 14th, and Londonderry July 15th, has arrived. The Times publishes the details of a late disaster to the British troops in New Zealand, and says it was peculiarly disgraceful and perhaps unprecedented. The men were surprised and fled, while nearly all the officers were killed and wounded in heroic efforts to rally them.

The Daily News says the floating supply of Confederate bonds is diminishing, owing to their being absorbed by blockade runners for the purchase of cotton.

LONDON, July 15.—Dano-German affairs are unchanged.

NEW YORK, July 26.—The Scotia, from Liverpool July 16th, and Queenstown the 17th, has arrived. A rumor

was current at Oberburg that the Federal and Confederate officers had agreed on a sea-fight off Oberburg within ten days.

On the 15th an influential deputation, consisting of the Marquis of Glanville, the Bishop of Chester, a number of members of Parliament, and several others, waited on Lord Palmerston to urge mediation in America on the plea of humanity. Palmerston said the Government could not consider that this was a moment when mediation would be acceptable, both sides being equally sanguine of success, while the North is especially jealous of interference. If an opportunity for mediation arose the Government would gladly avail itself of it.

Mason had an unofficial interview with Palmerston. The meeting is said to have been satisfactory to all parties (7). The withdrawal by Lindsey of the intended recognition motion in Parliament is said to be the result of Palmerston's having given a sort of implied promise to support the motion at a more opportune moment.

The Times' city article says there is a continued demand for Federal securities at Frankfurt. Parliamentary proceedings were unimportant.

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

DATES TO SUNDAY JULY 24th 1864.

HALIFAX, August 13.—The steamer Africa with dates from Liverpool to the 23rd, and from Queenstown the 24th July, has arrived.

The United States steamers Niagara and Sacramento were at anchor off Antwerp on the 19th of July.

The London Times publishes correspondence from Richmond to June 30th. The writer represents no apprehension for the safety of Richmond, and asserts that any single corps of the Confederates could hold the works around and about the city against any considerable force of Federals. He adds that the greatest jeopardy for the Confederates was in the neighborhood of Atlanta, but Confederate troops would be sent there in great numbers.

In the House of Lords, on the 22nd July, Earl Strafford de Radcliffe called attention to the new Holy Alliance, expressing the belief in it and urged the Government to take steps to counteract its influence. Earl Russell did not believe in a revival of the Holy Alliance, and thought it impossible. He contended there was no cause for alarm, and thought the good understanding between France and England would ensure the peace of Europe.

It is announced that Dr. Livingstone, after spending four months in England, will return to Africa on an expedition to put in train an operation by means of which slavery would be eventually put an end to.

A Prussian force, 6000 strong, entered Rendsburg on the 21st July and took possession. The Federal Lieutenant ordered Gen. Hake to protest against the proceeding.

A large majority of the Paris papers warn the German Powers against incorporating the question of Schleswig in the Peace Conference, and they point out that the law of retaliation exists, and if Germany sees an example of conquest others may not allow it to be repeated.

Napoleon, after receiving a course of treatment at Vichy, would go to Baden, where he would have an interview with the King of Prussia.

NEW YORK, August 5.—The Bremen, with dates from Southampton to July 20th, has arrived. All the islands on the west coast of Schleswig were in possession of the Allies. Peace negotiations had probably commenced.

NEW YORK, August 5.—The following was received by the Saxonia: Lord Palmerston, in the House of Commons, in response to an inquiry whether England intended acting in concert with the other European powers in endeavoring to bring about a suspension of hostilities in America, stated that he thought no advantage would be gained by mediation.

It is reported that Sidiell is on a visit to Napoleon. The Peace Conference convened on the 26th.

THE MINES IN IDAHO.—A correspondent of the Union, writing from Idaho City, July 10th, says: I have noticed in different papers letters from the mines, none of them giving a correct description. There has been considerable gold taken out in this and other camps, but they have none in their best days. I assure you ten years will see the basin "cleared out"—"played out." It is an impossibility to buy here and not get swindled. Men that have good ground know that they can work out this season, which they intend doing and then leave. Thousands of poor emigrants are coming into the Territory with the expectation of making a fortune in a few days. The chances are they won't make enough to sustain life. These mines have been blown up to such an extent that people will not believe the truth until they are convinced by experience. This city is overflowing with people of every description and times are exceedingly dull. A great many are leaving for Kootanai, and several have returned from there with bad news. What is to become of the poor in this basin during the winter is more than I can tell.

A PHOTOGRAPHER AT THE DIQINES.—Mr. Charles Gentile is at present at Leech river, and has sent for the necessary apparatus for taking views of the most prominent features on the creek. These will doubtless find a ready sale.

THE SPOKE TRAIL.—Mr. Pearce, assistant surveyor General, went down by the Alexandra to Spoke yesterday, with a party of men, to commence at once the construction of a trail from the landing to the mines.

Chemicals, &c.

BURBIDGES' Chemicals, &c.

These preparations are invaluable in hot climates, in Cholera, Typhoid, and other fevers. They are also useful in the treatment of Diarrhoea, Dysentery, and other ailments of the bowels. They are sold in bottles of 1/2, 1, 2, and 4 oz. each. Price 1/6 per bottle.

Druggists and Storekeepers throughout the World.

BURBIDGES' DRUGGISTS.

ST. LONDON. Current of nearly 3000 UGS. Chemical and Photographic. Surgical Instruments and every description of Sundries.

DEFINITION.

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MUNITION.

Military Purposes. Cartridges and Caps for all kinds of Arms. Also for Westley's Rifles, also for Westley's Rifles, also for Westley's Rifles.

URE Fluid Magnesia.

REMEDIUM FOR... Simple Dives.

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Simple Dives. 6d., 2s. 6d., and 5s. per bottle. To be found useful for all kinds of ailments.

REW AND PADDLE STEAMERS, &c.

STON & CO., MARINE AND SURVEYORS, 27, Leadenhall Street, London. Agents for Building Wood or Iron Steamers, Sailing Ships, or on River Navigation. Also for Building and Repairing all kinds of Boats.

NORTH AMERICAN FEDERATION.

With the ordinary course of Canadian politics, the interests of neither Vancouver Island nor British Columbia are closely interwoven; but the recent mail has brought us intelligence of a movement in the Legislature of Canada which, if carried into effect, is likely in the course of time to bring the colonies of the Pacific within the political folds of a great North American confederation. The difficulties of carrying on a Government in Canada, where party spirit is so equally divided that no cabinet can feel itself stable for a day, have at length induced the leaders of both sides to form a coalition that will tend to give something like permanence to the Government. In order, however, to satisfy the demands which immediately arise from this union of heterogeneity, a compromise is brought forward, which it is alleged will prove the panacea for existing evils. A Federation of Upper and Lower Canada—or, in other words, a system that will give to each section a Legislature to manage its local affairs, while the more general interests of tariff, excise, postal, &c., will come under the jurisdiction of a Federal body—is the proposition to be laid before the Canadian Legislature. Although in the beginning the federation is to be confined to Canada, yet the scheme is intended to embrace the whole of the North American Provinces so soon as arrangements can be made to that effect.

Whatever may be the result of this present attempt to form a federation of the North American colonies, of one thing we feel certain, no very great number of years can elapse without some such project being consummated. A half-a-dozen different provinces, under one sovereignty and adjoining each other, with no assimilation in their tariffs, is a state of affairs that could not from its nature very long exist. Independent, however, of this anomaly, there are growing aspirations among the North American colonists which must be met by a wider range of political life.

The people have been enumbered too long by disabilities which are wounding to their self-love as they are injurious to their position in the eyes of the world. With all the advantages of the system of Responsible Government, granted, after many conflicts, by the Imperial authorities, the colonist is still but half an Englishman in national privileges. National patronage slips over his head even in cases where he is pre-eminently qualified for and entitled to the post. The position of colonial Governor has been seldom or never assigned him; and in many parts of Her Majesty's dominions he is precluded from practicing in the Courts of law. He has no voice in making or unmaking some of those laws in which he may be the greatest sufferer, can enter into no treaty, nor, in fact, exercise any of the important duties pertaining to nationality. A federation of course, cannot make his position in this respect very much better; but it will prepare the people rapidly for that independence which is looming in the near future—an independence which, while adding another nation to the American continent, will relieve the mother country of many anxieties and troubles, and give substance to her statesman's boast of the past that he had called new worlds into existence to adjust the balance of the old.

We hail this first movement of the Canadian Government as the commencement of the regeneration of the hitherto apron-stringed colonists. With a federation of colonies from one ocean to the other, what limits can be placed to our material greatness, and what to our political aspirations? Instead of colonial talent being "cabineted, cribbed, confined," to the barren area of local politics, its horizon will be extended across a continent, and a more congenial field of operations will be opened to the vigorous minds of the North American Provinces.

The only hitch that can possibly stand in the way of the immediate consummation of the scheme, will be those of detail. The basis for the federation is similar to that which we have already suggested in reference to a union between this colony and British Columbia. In the Upper Branch of the federal Legislature, the equality of representation is to be preserved, while in the Lower Branch, representation by population is to prevail. There will, no doubt, be some anxiety amongst the British element of Lower Canada; for the French population will in the local Legislature have an overwhelming majority; on the other hand, however, when the federation is extended to the other Provinces, the French in their turn will feel themselves swamped in the Lower Branch of the Federal Legislature; so that the scheme is likely to meet with considerable difficulty before it can be got into working order. Our space will not admit of a much further discussion of the topic to-day; but we can only hope that the movement may be thoroughly successful, and thus to be possible as at no distant date, to emerge from our helplessness and isolation, and become members of the great North American Federation.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday, August 12.

ALEXANDER McDONNELL.—We have received a letter from Donald McDONNELL (Simcoe) Glenagary, Martintown, C. W., making enquiries respecting the fate of his brother, who was one of the unfortunate victims to the savage fury of the Chilcaton Indians at Bestinck Arm. All particulars of the murder, so far as known, appeared in the daily and weekly Colonist, as also the subsequent finding and burial of the bodies, and have, no doubt, met the eye of poor McDONNELL's grief-stricken relative.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICTURE.—The scholars of the Presbyterian Church Sunday School, accompanied by their teachers, parents, and a few friends, held a picnic on Wednesday afternoon in the beautiful glade near Ogdan Point, James' Bay. A considerable number of little folks were present and both old and young spent the afternoon most happily, under the fatherly care of the pastor, Rev. John Hall. The Sunday school numbers at present nearly forty scholars.

DEATH FROM DIPHTHERIA.—We regret to announce that our respected townsman Mr. J. S. Drummond has been overtaken with affliction in the sudden death from this fatal disease, of his daughter Leonora, a promising child aged nearly 5 years.

THE BLAZED TRAIL.—Some miners from Sooke, who followed the blazed trail from Leech river, report that it led them into a complete maze, from which they with difficulty extricated themselves. They state, however, that a good route for a trail can be found.

SPLENDID RUN HOME.—The Hudson Bay Company have received advice by the Devastation's mail of the safe arrival home of the bark Princess Royal, about the end of June. The Princess Royal left here on Feb. 28th this making the run home in less than four months—one of the quickest passages on record.

ADMIRALS KINGCOME AND DONNAN exchanged salutes yesterday morning, from their respective flag-ships Sutej and Devastation. The Tribune then saluted the newly arrived Admiral, and Lord Gilford, in return, received the compliment of his rank.

FOUL SMELLS.—The disgusting stenches which assail the olfactory from stagnant drains in various of the most frequented parts of the city, are the subject of general comment, more particularly by strangers who casually visit Victoria. We have hitherto been free from any serious epidemics, but cannot hope long to enjoy such immunity while pestilential nuisances of this nature are permitted to exist; and if it should happen, we pity the feelings of those who have done their utmost to "garrote" the City Council—the only body to whom we could look for a remedy of the evil.

TRIAL OF QUARLES.—William Quarles again appeared upon remand in the Supreme Court yesterday morning. Judge, jurors and witnesses waited patiently for the arrival of the Crown prosecutor, but as he did not put in an appearance, His Honor discharged the jurors until half past one. The Attorney General subsequently arrived and argued against an application made by the prisoner's counsel, Mr. Ring, to amend the plea. His Honor finally postponed the trial until next assizes, and on the reappearance of the jury-men they were dismissed.

GAMBLING AMONG THE CHRISTIANS.—Yung Sam appeared yesterday in the Police Court to answer a charge preferred against him by officer Bond for unlawfully setting as banker in a common gambling house on Cormorant street, and unlawfully and wilfully permitting and suffering certain idle and evil disposed persons playing and gambling therein. Mr. Bishop appeared for the defence, and took exception to the jurisdiction of the magistrate to adjudicate upon the charge. The case was remanded until Tuesday.

THE EXPLODING PARTY.—A letter was received yesterday by the Committee from Dr. Brown, who states that he would leave Nanaimo on Thursday, and proposed to divide the expedition into two exploring parties. They had explored some of the adjacent islands, and had no understanding of good indications of coal. Dr. Brown writes most sanguinely of the expected results of his future exploration, believing that they are about to enter a region which he believes will be found highly auriferous.

TRIP.—Charley alias Ke-cla-ka, a Fort Rupert Indian, was convicted yesterday in the Police Court of stealing a flannel shirt, the property of Peter McClusky, on board the steamer Emily Harris, and was sent to the gaol for two months. A second charge of stealing a sum of \$100 for the said complainant was dismissed for want of evidence.

THE TOWN SITE COMMISSION.—The commission appointed by His Excellency to enquire into Thompson and Munro's pre-emption at Sooke have rendered their decision confirming Thompson's tenure of 100 acres, disallowing that of Munro's absence. We congratulate Mr. Thompson on the result of the investigation.

THE STRIKE AT NANAIMO.—The strike at all the men employed at the mines, and consequently no coal was being got out. The bark Florida, which was nearly loaded when the strike took place, will have difficulty in completing her cargo. The "runners" in the mine have demanded \$3 per day.

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. C. J. HUGHES took place yesterday afternoon. A large number of friends followed the corpse to its last resting place.

DISCHARGING FIREARMS.

John Lery was convicted yesterday by the Police Magistrate, upon information of special officer Barrett, of discharging fire-arms in the vicinity of Young's wharf, and was ordered to give bonds in the sum of ten dollars to conduct himself peaceably for three months.

NANAIMO FOR SOOKE.—The sloop Ringleader, which arrived from Nanaimo last evening, brought down 12 miners from that town en route to the more attractive auriferous deposits at Sooke.

THE EXCURSION TO SOOKE.—About 60 persons availed themselves yesterday of the visit of the Alexandra to the beautiful harbor of Sooke, and spent a most agreeable time. The weather was delightful and what was more conducive to the enjoyment of water excursions, the water was as smooth as glass. An excellent band under the leadership of Mr. John Astor, contributed much to the enjoyment of the company.

THE NEW MINING TOWN.—The excursionists by the Alexandra yesterday, express themselves highly pleased with the appearance of the town-site at Sooke, and prognosticate the rapid springing up of a lively little town on that beautiful harbor. Should the gold discoveries in that vicinity prove as extensive as anticipated, we may hope to see ere long a fringe of bustling little ports all the way to Alberni, which will act as important feeders to Victoria, and conduce greatly to the general welfare of the country, despite the croakings of short-sighted individuals, who would fain make the public believe that they would prove formidable rivals to our own city.

VIEWS ON LEECH RIVER.—Mr. C. Gentile, photographic artist, returned last evening from the mines, with several fine views on Leech river. They include a view of the junction of the Leech and Sooke rivers. The mouth of Leech river, with miners at work with a rocker; also the Commissioner's camp, etc. So soon as the negatives are printed, we understand that they are to be sent for publication in the Illustrated London News.

THE "CASCADES."—This fine stern wheel steamer built at Uxalady and intended to ply on the Columbia river, is now lying at Brodick's wharf. She will return to Uxalady to-day to take on board the frame work of another steamer, and will leave for Astoria towards the end of the week.

DESTRUCTION.—Three sailors belonging to H.M.S. Sutej, and one from H.M.S. Tribune, were brought before the Police Magistrate on Saturday, on a charge of desertion, and were ordered to be given up to their own officers. Walter Saunders, charged with assisting the men to desert, was remanded till Tuesday.

MORE SPOOKIES.—The sloop Tibbals arrived on Saturday from Port Townsend, bringing ten passengers, all bound to the Sooke mines.

MINEING LICENSES.—Up to 4 p. m. of Saturday, 305 mining licenses had been issued by the acting Gold Commissioners.

PAWN BROKING.—Elijah H. Anderson of Oriental alley, appeared yesterday before Mr. Pemberton to answer a charge preferred against him by Serjt. Wilmer, of advancing money upon a set of gold studs left in pawn, without being licensed as a pawn broker. The officer stated that a set of studs had been stolen from the Superintendent of Police which he had traced to the possession of the accused, who stated that he had advanced three dollars on them to a man, Anderson produced a book purporting to be a receipt for three dollars for the studs in question, which he had purchased from a man who signed himself Williams. The magistrate adjourned the further enquiry for two days.

AFRAID OF LOSING HIS HEAD.—Kan, a Chinaman, who had signed articles on board the Hanoverian ship Armin for a voyage to China, was brought before the Police Magistrate yesterday, charged by Capt. Holnholtz with desertion. The celestial amused the court much with an animated description of the manner in which he feared that his head would be taken off if he proceeded in the ship to Amoy. The dread entertained by Kan evidently arose from the present civil strife raging in his country. The magistrate ordered him to be sent on board.

CANNIBALISM.—A man named James Murphy, recently a fireman on board the steamer Eliza Anderson, was yesterday charged before the Police Magistrate with assaulting Robert Martin and biting off his nose. From the evidence of the complainant and another witness, the assault appeared to have been quite unprovoked, and the magistrate indicated the full penalty of \$25, or two months' imprisonment, remarking that this was a brutal charge, and if the next assizes were so far off he would send the case for trial.

A PRACTICAL JOKE.—We learn from gentlemen who arrived by the Enterprise last night, that a hoax was practised upon some unsuspecting gentlemen who went out prospecting near Thompson's landing. The party took with them Liverpool Jack, who seized the opportunity of asking the first pan washed out with about 50 cents of gold dust. The embryo gold seekers upon ascertaining the contents of the pan rushed back to the landing in intense excitement at the discovery.

DISCHARGED.—John Davies, charged with threatening the life of Serjt. Wade, R.M.A., at Cole Island, Esquimalt, was yesterday discharged by Mr. Pemberton with a caution not to commit a breach of the peace.

AN ATTRACTIVE EXHIBITION.

The glass-blowing exhibition in the Lyceum Hall last evening was one of the most pleasing exhibitions that has yet been held in this city. The most beautiful and delicate ornaments in variegated colors were manufactured by the artists with the greatest ease and celerity. Fancy baskets, tops, birds, sowing plumes of glass filaments, &c., were turned out at pleasure and with facility that was positively astonishing. The principal feature of the exhibition was the steam engine constructed wholly of glass and propelled by veritable steam generated in glass boilers. It is certainly a triumph of glass blowing art. Not the least attractive feature of the evening was the giving away of the ornaments manufactured during the exhibition, some of which were worth more than the cost of admission. Go and see them to-night.

AN ALARM OF FIRE was given last evening, caused by the chimney of the old Fort Government kitchen, corner of Fort and Government streets throwing out clouds of smoke and sparks. The three fire companies exhibited the most promptitude alacrity in turning out, water being thrown on the building in less than five minutes after the alarm was given. Fortunately the affair ended in smoke.

GOVERNMENTAL VISIT TO LEECH RIVER.—We understand that it is His Excellency's intention to visit the mines on Leech river at an early date and to ascertain by personal inspection the working of the present mining regulations and the condition of affairs generally on the creek. He will no doubt receive a hearty welcome from the miners.

VALUE OF THE SOOKE GOLD.—An assay of gold dust from the Leech river mines made yesterday by Mr. Molitor for the Bank of British Columbia, shows the value to be \$18 40 to the ounce. The gold is of a rich yellow color, resembling that from Australia. This assay contrasts favorably with a late notice in California papers of an assay of Boise dust which yielded only \$11 to the ounce.

FROM SOOKE.—The steamer Enterprise arrived last evening from Sooke with some five or six passengers, of whom only one was a miner, and he intends returning as soon as he procures a stock of supplies. He says all the claims on Leech river are taken up. A party started across from the Forks of Leech a few days ago, to strike Jordan or Clibch river, where they expect to find similar deposits to those on the former stream.

ASSAULTING A FEMALE.—John Hoffer was yesterday brought before Mr. Pemberton charged with committing an assault upon an Indian woman. Prisoner pleaded drunkenness and expressed his sorrow that he had touched the woman. The parties were allowed to settle their differences out of court.

THE MOLE TRAIL TO SOOKE.—Several tenders for this work were accepted yesterday by the Government. The contract will probably be awarded this morning.

PARLIAMENT TO MEET.—In consequence of business of an urgent nature requiring the attention of the Legislature, His Excellency the Governor has determined to summon the House of Assembly to meet forthwith. We understand the House will be formally opened on Saturday next.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.—Hostile Attitude of the Sioux.—The Last Victims of the Great Massacre.

From our files of the Nor' Western to May 31st, we call the following:
Four Thompsons, D. T., April 16, 1864.
A boat passed this place to-day with six men on board who have come down direct from Fort Berthold.
The hostile Sioux had collected there in vast numbers. Their camp consisted of 1,500 lodges, averaging three warriors to a lodge. Their families were not with them—their camp being a formidable war party, bitterly hostile in feeling, and bent on fight.
Their avowed purpose is to wait a short time for the arrival of troops, whom they expect, when, if they do not come, they intend to sweep down the Missouri valley to find them, and then give them battle. They are confident of victory, as they say they were more than a match for all the troops sent against them last summer.
Three white captives are amongst them, the last of the victims of the Minnesota massacre. One is a woman, and the others a boy and girl.
The Sisseton Sioux had accepted terms of peace. They are not permitted to return to their own country about Big Stone Lake and Lake Traverse, but are required to repair to the region of Devil's Lake, where a new home will be assigned them, and where they will enjoy the protection of the military authorities, so long as they behave themselves in a proper manner.
A part of the Sissetons who participated in the attack on Fort Abercrombie in 1862 being fearful of punishment on that account will probably join the hostile Yanktons, and other disaffected bands who will combine with the great Teton bands for warlike purposes. They will remain in close proximity to each other near the mouth of Heart river on the Missouri, and concentrate to meet our troops in battle, and meanwhile they avow a determination to attack steamers, or parties of emigrants proceeding westward to Idaho.

FORCE OF BAD EXAMPLE.—A gentleman who recently visited New Westminster informs us that while there his attention was attracted by a string of little girls, holding each others hands who approached him with doleful woe-begone countenances. The Victorians' best feelings became aroused and the milk of human kindness began to expand his sympathetic bosom as he tended enquired of the distressed young maidens what was the matter, but to his astonishment he received for answer: "Please, sir, we're all for Sooke."

THE LICENSE GRIBVANCE.

ERRORS BARRIEN COLONIST: Believing the Press to be not only the exponent of public opinion but also the medium by which abuses can be shown up and grievances remedied, I ask permission for the insertion in your columns of the following facts relative to my application for a license, and as you have some time since editorially remarked upon my case, I can with confidence appeal to you and through you to my fellow citizens for their sympathy and support.

On the 11th July last, at the special session of the Bench of Magistrates, I applied for a liquor license for the John Bull Hotel, which was built and first opened by me in 1862, and which was subsequently leased from me by Mr. Dadd, who became insolvent about three weeks previous to the above date, and during my absence from the Colony. On my application being handed in, I was told that the arrears of license (6 months) had not been paid, and therefore I could not have the license; the Bench at Mr. Pemberton's instance, ruling that the house was licensed, not the man, consequently I was liable, but I might apply in a week's time. On the 19th I renewed my application, and explained that there were funds in the hands of the assignees of Mr. Dadd's estate sufficient to pay the arrears of license, and that I myself was owed rent, and apprehended I hoped they would not refuse my application. The majority of the Bench thought it a hard case, but ultimately gave way to Mr. Pemberton, who remarked it was refused pending the payment of arrears; I could however, apply again. I subsequently waited with Mr. Bishop upon Mr. Pemberton to ask him to take the necessary steps for the payment of the said arrears out of the funds in the assignees' hands. The reply was, he would speak to Mr. Smith. After seeing Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Smith five different times on the subject, and pointing out the loss I was sustaining by the house remaining closed, I was referred by the latter gentleman to the Treasurer Mr. Watson, and his remarks were so pertinent and decisive that it prompted me to indite this letter. He stated "that he notified the Assignees immediately upon the advertisement appearing in the papers, and they stated that they were bound to pay, and the house was not liable for the license." On Friday last I saw Mr. Pemberton and was told I must wait till September. I have therefore the alternative, should I succeed upon my third application, of paying a quarter's license in September, which quarter expires on the 21st of the following month; at which time, unless, forsooth, the same kind indulgence of six months be granted me as to my predecessor—a further quarter's license will be due; for, without dwelling upon the fact of Government officials allowing licenses to fall in arrears, is it not monstrous that—to quote from your leading article some time since—"a solvent customer should pay the debt of an insolvent one," and that a house which has held a license for nearly two years without one word of complaint against it from the authorities, should then be refused—why? simply because the previous occupant had not paid his license? The British public have learnt through the Press at the expense of the drawbacks of this colony by those who emigrated here in 1862; but that one's time and money should be frittered away by the caprice of any one man, and that too without either reason or justice on his side, is something so flagrant that it seems to be the rule, and not the exception, persons would indeed pause ere they embarked the little capital they possessed in this country, where, with such an unsettled and fluctuating population (unlike other colonies) every possible assistance should be given instead of being withheld by the Government. It may be considered that what I have stated will prejudice my cause and affect my obtaining a license, but *Magna est veritas et prevalebit*; I shall no doubt be watched carefully by the authorities, but it is not my aim either to come into conflict with or court favor from them; I state the facts of the case, and may the public draw their own conclusions; I simply ask for justice.

Yours, &c.,
A. M. HARRIS.

CITY COUNCIL.

Present.—Councillors (Stronach in the chair) Wallace, Ewing, and Bunting.
JOHNSON STREET ENCROACHMENTS.
The Town Clerk read the opinion of the Attorney General recommending that the Mayor take the necessary steps to prevent encroachments on the property at the foot of Johnson street, which he believes belongs of right to the city.

Mr. Wallace moved the following resolution:—
That a Committee of the whole be appointed to wait on His Excellency the Governor, relative to the communication from the Colonial Secretary with the enclosures touching the encroachments on the water front at the foot of Johnson street. Also to confer with the Governor on the present condition of the City Council.

Mr. Ewing thought the motion a very important one, and more particularly as the Legislature was about to be called together, it was necessary that the Council should take the earliest opportunity of placing themselves in a proper position, and he hoped the committee would wait upon the Governor at an early day.

Mr. Bunting coincided in the views of the previous speaker.
The resolution was carried without opposition.

STREET MENTAL.
Mr. Wallace said that he had been told by Mr. Reynolds the contractor, that he had a lot of men, which he intended to dump down on the streets where needed, trusting to the generosity of the Council to indemnify him at some future time.
No action was taken.
Council adjourned to Monday evening next.

A TRAIL has been cut from Thompson's landing to Bru's, a distance of a mile and a half up Sooke river, connecting at that point with the new trail up the right bank of the river just laid out by Mr. Peard. Mr. P. computes the length of the new trail from Bru's to the junction to be 10 miles.

THE SOOKE MINE.

Tuesday, August 16,

THE SOOKE MINE.

No fewer than four steamers Sooke Thursday, viz. the Enterprise, Flying Dutchman, and Calistoga, however, did not succeed in their destination, her steam pipe burst out shortly after leaving the compelling her to return to port. The vessel returned from Sooke about with two or three passengers, a cabin at 4 o'clock, with between the news from the mines is high. Several of the claims are excellent pay, and many other prospect of doing so as soon as proper working order. Kayer or are credibly reported to have taken to the three rockers. Capt. Pilouche for this statement. The Wake up Jake Co. above were also taking out about as a matter.

Mr. Campbell of Johnson Street up a claim about eight miles up. He informs us that he can take to \$6 per day by "crevicing," shovel, and pan. He states a plenty of good pay in the benches adjoining his claim, and says he more promising hill diggings in California, in which country he has mining experience.

A number of claims have been on Sooke river, below the junction bars on that portion of the stream.

A great many of the claims about are now unrepresented, and owners make up that he can take to \$6 per day by "crevicing," shovel, and pan. He states a plenty of good pay in the benches adjoining his claim, and says he more promising hill diggings in California, in which country he has mining experience.

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THE SOOKE MINES.

The steamer Caledonia arrived from Sooke Tuesday evening at half-past seven o'clock, bringing about thirty passengers, the majority of whom were Chinamen and Indians. The accounts from the mines do not present any marked difference from those previously received. One returned miner states that the only work being done on the creek is "orevining" and washing the dirt so procured in rockers and pans. Nothing whatever has yet been done towards prospecting the benches or hill sides, nor towards fluming the stream. No vigorous or sustained efforts have been made either towards pushing up to the head waters of Leech river, where rich deposits of the coarse gold now found in the crevices of the bed rock may reasonably be expected to exist.

Willis Bond, of house-moving fame, returned by the Caledonia last night, having "beat up" the shore and the head. He says, however, that he made from \$4 to \$5 per day by "orevining" and that the last day he worked he and his partner made \$2.

From Mr. Fell, who has just returned from a three days' excursion to the head of the Leech river, the following interesting particulars: Mr. Fell and party started from the head of Goldstream and struck across for the junction of Sooke and Leech rivers. After camping in the woods all night, they reached the junction on the morning of the 8th instant. Forging the stream through pebbles and boulders they visited Gold Commissioner Golledge, who is snugly located in a canvas tent, and is kept busily engaged attending to the wants of the eager miners. The whole number of licenses taken out up to 10 o'clock yesterday morning was 277. A number of miners were waiting on the Commissioner taking out licenses. Mr. Golledge is attentive and obliging, and seems to give satisfaction to the mining community. From the Commissioner's tent Mr. Fell proceeded up Leech river (or more properly Sooke river, as this is the main stream), and reached the Pioneer Hotel, kept by Ward, Phinney & Co., who have a fair supply of the creature comforts, including drinks of various kinds at "two bits" each. Very fair meals are supplied at \$1. The river is staked off a row of stakes for two miles can be distinctly observed. The river is said to be staked off for 8 miles from the mouth. The view from the mouth of Leech river, looking up, is full of picturesque grandeur. The banks rise in successive ledges or benches to the height, in some places, of hundreds of feet, and are heavily wooded to the edge of the channel. The extreme width of the bed of the river is from 60 to 70 feet, but the stream at the present low stage of water is not more than from 12 to 20 feet wide. The whole channel is filled with immense boulders, some 8 and 10 feet in diameter, and new miles up the course of the river presents the appearance of a magnificent natural avenue, being perfectly straight and completely free from logs or driftwood.

The banks are fringed with pine, very cedar, and hemlock, whose drooping branches overhang the channel. Our informant visited several claims on this part of the river, among which was that of Harvey & Co., who have taken camp ground opposite the Pioneer Hotel. The owners were busily at work and were in high spirits, although one of them had just emerged dripping from a chance slip head over heels into the water. They were complaining much of the want of a rocker. A number of other claims were visited, a large proportion of which were not represented, being taken up in the names of people in Victoria. They would doubtless all be jumped after the 15th instant. Those who were occupying claims were only prospecting and orevining, but expected when they could procure rockers and other necessary tools to take out good pay. About a mile from the mouth Dean Thain & Co.'s claim was reached; this company were preparing to drive a tunnel into the hill, as they had found excellent prospects at a height of twenty feet to the pan—on the top of the first bench, which is there nearly 100 feet high. The claim-owners stated positively this was the case, and that they never washed any dirt from the benches without obtaining gold. They were also sinking shafts on the side of the river to try and reach the bed of the rock. They had got down from seven to nine feet, finding no boulders, and nothing but gravel, with gold all the way down, getting richer as they went. They were very sanguine of getting splendid pay on a bed of bed-rock, and believed that millions of dollars will be found in the bed of the river. Mr. Fell next visited Smith and Moffat's claim, and found these gentlemen highly satisfied with their prospects, and sanguine of great results. Shortly after this our informant crossed the creek and made several prospects on the banks, finding gold every time. Several claims along this portion of the river are represented. On a claim near this, a very old and comfortable bark has been erected. One of the owners was visiting at the end of the but, looking very moody, on which Mr. Fell asked him he was ill, and he was informed that the poor man in lifting a heavy weight, had brought on splitting of the blood, and feared he had ruptured a blood vessel. This mishap had given rather a gloomy coloring to his views of the mine. After passing a number of other claims, Mr. Fell came to the Wake-up-Jake company's subdivision, finding the owners in high spirits, and pleased with their prospects. The company working with three rockers, showed him the product of their day's labor, in a tid cup, amounting to nearly \$100, consisting of beautiful coarse gold. It was obtained from the bed-rock, which was discovered by picks, and shovelled into the rockers. A little higher up is Booth's claim, where the celebrated nugget was found. Booth did not speak very encouragingly of his prospects, being evidently disappointed in not finding more nuggets "kicking around." The next claim visited which had a rocker, was that of Smallbone, "the indefatigable," who has taken up a good location. Smallbone is highly pleased with his prospects; the com-

pany had borrowed a rickety old rocker, and had got out about \$25 that day, and expects to make it \$40 by nightfall. One of the company was in town for provisions. About this spot the river becomes very wild and rocky, filled with huge masses of bed-rock, which form a bar in the centre of the river some 700 feet long. On one side is an immense pile of driftwood some 20 feet high, accumulated by the winter torrents. Some distance above this, the Balcelava company had got some \$5 to \$10 nuggets, picked off the rocks. Two others hard at work close to this claim, showed Mr. Fell some very fine nuggets picked up without washing. From this point another grand view up the river for two or three miles is obtained. The banks approach each other more closely than below, and the bed of the stream is filled with enormous boulders, compared with which those further down are like pebbles. A long line of the marking off the claims taken up, are visible as far as the eye can reach. At this point, our informant:

"Began to feel, as well he might, The keen demands of appetite."
and looking at his watch he discovered it was 5 o'clock; he accordingly rapidly retraced his steps; his olfactory being greeted all the way down with the savory smells of the miners' evening meal, to the Pioneer hotel, where he speedily sat down to an excellent meal of roast venison, bacon, bread, butter, and coffee, so which he did the most ample justice. Two other fellow travellers, weary and worn, with a huge boulder for a table, were laying in ample supplies of "prog," grumbling the while because the accommodating host could not cook fast enough for their voracious appetites. After dinner a song was started, and was taken up by camp after camp of the miners, rolling far away up the wild recesses of the river till its echoes died out in the distance, producing a most pleasing effect. The travellers then rolled in among their blankets, with a down bag for a pillow, nor did they rouse from their slumbers till the tramp of the upward-bound miners woke the morning echoes. After performing his ablutions in the limpid waters of our modern Pastolour, our informant made his way down to the Gold Commissioner's tent, where he speedily enrolled himself in the ranks of the "free and honest miners," by taking out a \$5 license. Having partaken of the hospitality of the commissioner at a delicious breakfast of venison, mountain trout, beans and coffee, our informant bade farewell to Leech river. Before leaving, this spot, however, an amusing incident occurred worth narrating. Just opposite the Commissioner's camp is a deep pool, on the banks of which the tent is pitched. Round the fire was grouped a company of miners, among whom was a well known member of the Exploring Party, all being engaged in talking about the events of the day, when suddenly the gallant explorer took an involuntary "header" into the pool, to the great amusement of the by-standers. He soon scrambled out, however, none the worse for his ducking. The tramp down Sooke river, the landing was made leisurely in a homely good boat, and the miners of the right sort being met on their way up. As a matter of course a good many croakers were also met, who were chiefly aggrieved because their golden dreams were not so readily realized as they expected.

Mr. Fell is satisfied the good state of affairs may very easily be made up to the miners, and that it is the great want of the mine, an overland trail is also much wanted and could easily be found. From Brule's a boat conveyed our travellers two miles down to the steamer landing, where the old Caledonia lay puffing and grunting, waiting to convey them to Victoria, where they arrived at 7:30, p. m.

THE GOLD COMMISSIONER'S DISPATCHES.

We have been courteously permitted to have access to several interesting despatches addressed by the Acting Gold Commissioner at Sooke to the Government, from which we have made the following extracts:

Despatch No. 1.
LEECH RIVER, 6th Aug., 1864.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that affairs in this quarter are making favorable progress. During a short interval the applicants for licenses, etc. allowed me at noon, I visited several parties who have established themselves near my quarters, and, to my great surprise, found as many as twelve rockers at work, some of which had produced \$12 per rocker since morning.

It is really apparent, from the deliberate manner in which actual miners proceed to business; their respectful yet independent behavior; their preparations they are making for their own prospective careers; and their style of talking, such as "when the water rises too high, and prevents our working the bed of the river, we will pitch into these hills where the gold comes from;" that they are determined to give the country a thorough prospecting.

I have ventured to name these diggings, which I have every reason to suppose will be the first and best paying ones for some time to come, in this direction, and extend from the mouth of the Leech to the closing of the stream in a perspective point of view, the "Kennedy Gold Diggings" or "Mines," until His Excellency's pleasure be known; and I must mention that such was most joyfully received by the occupants of claims, so far as the news could possibly reach.

At 4 p. m., to-day, 205 licenses and register receipts had been issued, and I have also to-day taken such measures as to bring those above holding claims without licenses down to me with their cash, before the next arrivals up stream to this point obtain their licenses on their way further up the river. I expect to issue a great number of licenses on Monday, and shall use my influence in keeping the next comers about prospecting some neighborhood near at hand for a day, after which I shall consider the owners of good claims who have not taken out licenses, notwithstanding the constant warnings I am, as desiring of nothing better than having their claims jumped.

A party of good miners from the Deane, Thain, claim, expect to arrive at about 5 p. m., at Langford's lake, Esquimaux, having taken a short cut through the country for

that point, in an easterly direction from Leech river.

I have the honor, etc.,
R. GOLLEDGE,
Acting Gold Commissioner.
Hon. Colonial Secretary.

Despatch No. 2.
LEECH RIVER, Aug. 7, 1864.

Sir,

This afternoon being the first leisure time I have had since my arrival, I took advantage of it to proceed some distance up the Leech river, say 3 miles from our encampment, and am happy to state that notwithstanding the gold fever which prevails, very few miners were not observing the day of rest. Every one with whom I consulted appeared perfectly satisfied with the chances that awaited them, and were of opinion that great quantities of gold will be found in the hills, and for the short time the miners have been here the work done is surprising. With respect to roads to this quarter, I think it will be advisable to open a good trail along the Sooke river as well as through the country in south easterly direction. I have to report the existence of two most promising quartz loads on the Sooke, distant about a mile from my tent. One 5 feet in breadth, I discovered myself, and have shown it to some good men who have sent for implements to work it, or give it a trial. Game of all kinds abound. Trout are caught just outside my tent, and my Indian has already brought in three deer since his engagement yesterday.

(Signed)
R. GOLLEDGE,
Acting Gold Commissioner.
Hon. Colonial Secretary.

Despatch No. 3.
LEECH RIVER, 7th August, 1864.

Sir, Mr. Wall and party have just arrived at my quarters, and report their route from Victoria to this point as being practicable for a mile trail; the whole distance they say from Victoria to Leech river mouth, by the route they have passed through and recommended is not more than twenty-five miles; the trees for half the distance they have blazed, with the exception of a very few places, are now at least 200 or 300 feet in extent, and in every respect admirably adapted for a settlement, and a beautiful stream running at its foot in a south-westerly direction towards Sooke Bay.

(Signed) R. GOLLEDGE,
Acting Gold Commissioner.
Hon. Colonial Secretary.

Despatch No. 4.
LEECH RIVER, Aug. 8th.

From good authority I hear that \$120 worth of coarse gold was yesterday washed from the pay dirt on the Wake-up-Jake claim, the fortunate miner who secured this did so in the whole season, and I shall endeavor to proceed thither to-morrow to learn further particulars.

I may mention that a list of members and names of persons who have taken out licenses was posted up for the information of the public on 12 o'clock noon, numbering from 1 to 222.

I have the honor to be, &c.,
R. GOLLEDGE,
Acting Gold Commissioner.
Hon. Colonial Secretary.

OVERLAND TRIP TO THE MINES.—Mr. Charles Street has furnished to the Government an elaborate report from notes taken by him during his recent overland trip to the diggings on Leech river. It appears that Mr. Street in company with Messrs. Ochsner, Manroe, Dr. McCandless, O'Brien, and a guide named Hudson left Victoria at 9 a. m. on Friday last, each supplied with a horse and pack, and a spare animal for packing. They followed the Sooke trail to about 4 miles beyond Peat's, where they branched off up a steep incline. At this point their compass failed to act, but the guide disdaining his aid directed them as nearly a northwest course as they could get. They passed several high mountains which none of the party could distinguish by the official map. The trail becoming very bad they all dismounted save Mr. Munro who still kept his seat. While resting on the top of a high knoll they were joined by Mr. Wall and his assistants who had been on their way for an easier trail. The country as they proceeded became very difficult to travel and they found no water or feed for their horses. On Saturday they resumed their travel early, the rocks beginning to change their appearance into limestone and trap. Some quartz veins were seen, and in some of the basins they found good feed for the horses. Prospected a stream running to Grant's sawmill, but did not get the color. Clomb a steep rocky mountain and just as they reached the top the guide's horse slipped and rolled completely over. He was not however much hurt. So far the party saw no land fit for cultivation. After cutting through some thick brush they struck a lake which one of the party supposed emptied into Edder Bay 16 miles distant. From the top of a high mountain (which Mr. Street supposes to be about 5,000 feet above the level of the sea), they had a splendid view. The Fues Straits, though 12 miles away appeared almost at their feet, and the steamer Enterprise was plainly seen leaving Victoria, the city itself being quite visible. On Saturday they only travelled 11 miles. On Sunday they made their way with greater ease and reached Leech River at 4 p. m., having gone 12 miles. The entire distance was accomplished in three days, though much time was lost in stopping the train in order to reconnoitre from the hills. They found the government blazes about one mile from Leech River. Mr. Street states that the horses were occasionally assailed by wasps or hornets which rendered them unmanageable. He is of opinion that a trail about 27 miles in length, avoiding the steepest and most difficult portions, could be made without much difficulty. On Burnt Mountain the party met Billy Baugh, Andrew Laig, and another, whom they supplied with water. These men were on their way through to Victoria by Langford's Lake. Mr. Street's party would leave on Monday, returning by the same route.

LETTER FROM LEECH RIVER.

[FROM OUR RESIDENT CORRESPONDENT.]
LEECH RIVER, Monday, Aug. 8, 1864.
EDITOR COLONIST.—I arrived here at 6 p. m. on Saturday, and would have written before should I have obtained reliable information of the mines; but my report would be but a mass of contradictions did I trust to what was told me instead of what I saw.

THE TRAIL TO LEECH.
If a trail it can be called, is one that no man would care to walk over more than once unless great inducements were held out to him, but this will not be long so, as Mr. Neilly arrived here yesterday and reports that he can cut a good trail from the mouth of Leech to Langford's Lake, which he calls a distance of nine or ten miles. He returned again immediately, and will probably be in Victoria before you receive my letter.

ACCOUNTS IN COMING OVER THE TRAIL.
Accidents in coming over the trail, and probably the most serious, happened to one of our party, named Wm. Williams, a drayman. In descending a rocky precipice, a distance of some 150 feet, he suddenly became dizzy and rolled down about twenty feet beyond the others, until assistance arrived. From this shock he did not quite recover before he was again observed tumbling head-first down a still more dangerous precipice. When I left, he was quite insensible, but his partner has since arrived and tells me that he has sent him to Victoria in charge of a man returning from the mines.

ON SOOKE RIVER.
Very little is being done as yet; but it is the opinion of many with whom I have conversed that good paying bar diggings will yet be found on that river. It has not been prospected except in a very few places, miners making direct for the better known diggings on Leech. About five companies are now at work, and I passed were all obtaining a satisfactory prospect.

AT THE FORKS.
A great change takes place in the appearance of the country, being less densely wooded than on the banks of the Sooke. You may stand here and look up Leech river a distance of nearly two miles without anything obstructing the sight—so straight a course does it take. The Gold Commissioner's tent is the first that meets the eye, and from there up to a distance of five miles may be seen hills and tents every few yards. The next tent, of consequence, is Ward's Provision Store, where miners can be supplied with almost everything they want in this line. Here may also be obtained the "intoxicating," and the sign on the tree announces that said beverage may be obtained at the rate of twenty-five cents a "nip," miners making direct for the better known diggings on Leech. About five companies are now at work, and I passed were all obtaining a satisfactory prospect.

Every half hour may be seen a string of Chinamen passing along, some going up, others coming down; the latter to locate on claims where the prospects are smaller, but where the dirt is more plentiful and more accessible than higher up the river.

There is quite a diversity with regard to the yield of the different claims. Some pay out as high as fifty cents and \$1 to the pan, while others (and the majority) can only obtain from 3 to 5 cents.

Thain & Co.'s claim pays about 2 oas. to the rocker per day.

The Keiser claim is paying better than any claim on the river.

The claim owned by the colored men who found the large nugget and others adjoining, is paying from \$10 to \$20 per day with a rocker.

Mr. Keiser has just passed down the river to try more rockers, and has given me the following intelligence: His company, to-day, at 2 p. m., in 4 hours' digging and rocking, have cleaned up \$42, among which is a piece weighing \$7, another \$4, and two or three of over \$1. He showed me the gold and there is nothing but the pure ore in any of his pans. There is no doubt but this is the best claim on the river. Mr. Keiser has invited me up to his "hotel," and I go up to-morrow, and probably higher, when I shall be able to give a more detailed description.

Jim Williams, formerly Patrick's bar-keeper, and the most intelligent of the party, took out with a pan about \$7; this claim is located about 1 1/2 miles above the mouth of the river.

Marvin and Adams have just stopped at my camp and showed me some five or six dollars which they washed from one and a half miles above this. They have gone down for provisions, having first taken out licenses and recorded their claims.

While with me they related the following adventure which may not be uninteresting to your readers.

"DEAR SIR, I had about three miles above this a creek empties into Leech river, up which my informant wandered on a prospecting tour. At nightfall they discovered that they were several miles from the nearest camp, and had not the wherewith to satisfy the cravings of hunger. While deliberating upon the dilemma in which they were placed, to their great astonishment a deer came suddenly bounding down from the mountain within a few feet of them. The gold seekers immediately flew to arms and so frightened the poor animal that it rushed into a narrow gorge, where escape was next to impossible, and was despatched with a pick and a shovel, the only weapons the assailants possessed.

A large proportion of those who come to these mines, having had no experience in a mining country, after stopping a day or two, and not getting lumps of gold visible to the naked eye, and unwilling to procure a mining license, return to Victoria discouraged, without even so much as striking a pick in the ground. Instances of this I have already noticed during my short sojourn.

Two men who came up to this place with me, after having examined the country "externally" for two days, without bringing pick, pan, shovel, or muscular power into requisition, returned disheartened.

TRAGEDY AT SOOKE.

DEATH OF MR. C. J. HUGHES, J. P.

It is with feelings of extreme pain that we have to record the death of Charles James Hughes, Esq., the recently appointed Magistrate for Sooke District. Mr. Hughes breathed his last at Eberhard's Hotel, Langley street, at about 10 minutes to 10 last night. The circumstances connected with this melancholy event may be briefly stated as follows:

Mr. Hughes left Victoria on Tuesday afternoon, by the Alexandra, for Sooke Inlet, where he remained that night. Yesterday forenoon he occupied the greater portion of his time in writing, in Messrs. Elliott & Stuart's temporary store. This circumstance created no suspicion as he was supposed to be framing some official report. About midday he took out his revolver, and Turner, the resident constable, loaded it for him. Shortly afterwards Mr. Hughes who complained of feeling unwell said he would take a stroll to inspect the proposed town site, and try his revolver. Up to this period nothing peculiar or irrational had been observed in his demeanor. The only circumstance that attracted any attention whatever was that the deceased held his hand over the manuscript upon which he was engaged whenever any person approached near enough to decipher it. It would appear that he then left Messrs. Elliott & Co.'s store unobserved, and proceeded about 300 yards on a trail which leads from Thompson's landing to Muir's mill, and nothing more was known until he was discovered lying bleeding on the ground by Mr. Foley and another man named Hughes, who happened to be passing. Mr. Hughes was then alive and partly conscious, his pistol, with all the barrels discharged, was lying near him; also some private papers. Assistance was immediately obtained, and the sufferer was removed on a stretcher to Thompson's, where an examination was made by Dr. Hall, a medical gentleman who happened to be there, and he discovered a fearful and mortal bullet wound about 3/4 of an inch wide in the left breast. Three balls had apparently entered just under the region of the heart, passing through the left lung and pleura, and passing out of the body at the back. Dr. Hall, assisted by John Costello, dressed the wound as well as circumstances would permit, and Mr. Hughes in this dying condition was placed on board the Alexandra then bound to Victoria.

A large crowd was assembled at Pickett's wharf when the Alexandra arrived last evening, and the sad tidings of which she was the bearer spread like wildfire over the city, the steamer and wharf being in a short space of time thronged with anxious friends of the unhappy man. A messenger was at once despatched for a medical man, and a few moments, Dr. Trumble, followed by Dr. Powell, was in attendance. On examining the wound, they pronounced their patient beyond human aid. Mr. Hughes was conveyed to Eberhard's Hotel, where he shortly afterwards breathed his last, attended by a few of his most intimate friends. He was a native of Montgomeryshire, Wales, but his family resided at Ludlow, in Shropshire, and Mr. Hughes spent several years in California before he visited this city. We understand that he was a single man, about 44 years of age.

FURTHER EXPLORATION BY MR. FOLEY.—Mr. J. M. Foley, one of the discoverers of the Leech river diggings, has forwarded to the Government a report, bearing date yesterday morning, in which he recounts the results of his observation during a prospecting tour from Muir's property on the south side of Sooke Inlet to Leech river. We have been permitted, through the courtesy of the Colonial Secretary, to peruse the report. Mr. Foley states that he found a fine valley well watered, the soil rich for agricultural purposes, and extending N. W. from Muir's to the head waters of Leech river, a distance of ten to twelve miles. The valley is about two miles wide, bounded S. by the Coast range and E. by the range of Bald Hills skirting the Sooke river. Fine timber abounds, consisting of cedar, (one of which was seventy feet in circumference,) Douglas pine, hemlock, alder, silver pine and maple, all of large growth. Mr. Foley prospected several streams on the way to Leech river, finding strong veins in some and nice prospects in others. He believes that winter diggings could be struck on these creeks, though at present water is scarce.

From the tenor of conversation which Mr. Foley has had with some of the miners he believes they would be glad to settle down and make their homes in this section of the country, as in British Columbia, if a road were opened through it, which he says could be done with very little difficulty and at a moderate cost. From indications which he saw he believes that coal exists in abundance. There is a stream, adds Mr. Foley, running west from the head waters of Leech river in which he found good prospects, slate range, any amount of quartz and boulders and a good head of water. From those indications he thinks it might vie with Leech river. He intended himself proceeding there shortly to prospect.

THE OVERLAND TRAIL.—The exploration committee yesterday received a letter from Mr. Wm. Wall, whom they had employed to blaze a trail through to Leech river. He states that he and party arrived at Goldstream Monday evening, with the intention of bringing the trail out there, but had not succeeded to their satisfaction, although they had reached the stream itself readily. Mr. Wall thinks they would have managed it had they not been led astray by a person who undertook to guide them. He also states that they hope to connect their Goldstream trail with the one that ran from the Sooke trail to Leech river, in two days, and adds that Mr. Bell and party told him a good trail could be made from the north of Goldstream to Leech river.

FROM FORT NEVILLE.—Mr. Rogers, manager at Fort Neville, has arrived at Nanaimo, and reported having half a cargo of spare ready for shipment. All quiet on the coast.

The steamer Flying Dutchman, Douglas, via New Westminster, night, bringing ten passengers of whom were direct from Cariboo. The failure of the alleged place on Bear and Swamp rivers, in Cariboo, is fully confirmed. Gold found, but not in paying quantities all the men had returned.

G. B. Wright was advertising for the new wagon road, but he hardly any but Chinamen, as the fees were only \$60 per month, day deducted for rainy weather.

The news of the Sooke diggings reached Lillooet, and was causing excitement all the way from there to Westminster will soon be nearly

LATER FROM CARIBOO.

\$227,000 in Treasures.

The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday from New Westminster with passengers and over twelve hundred weight of gold—\$131,784 of which the Bank of British Columbia, at 000 by private hands, and \$16,000 & Nelson's Express.

Barnard's Express brings us Ca to the last instant.

Mr. Wilson Brown left Williams the last instant, at 4 p. m., and Seymour and suite going in.

Bed-Rocks Drain.

Complaints against the manner this work had been carried on were numerous, and the losses entail claim holders awaiting its completion were enormous. It is supposed they tap the Tinker shaft which is expected to do in a week, it would about half a dozen of the claim far as the Caledonia and Grizzly Mining News.

There are several claims reported struck rich amongst which is the men's claim next Hard Curry Co. were taking out over 100 oas their new shaft. The Aurora has yet holes and were not doing so. Erickson were sinking two new shafts them to work another place \$1000 dividend to the share. Dr. on Conkling's Gulch next. They kept the matter quiet, but bled shortly afterwards to find overrun with excited diggers some unknown placer diggers watched the operation. Wellmen, and were so satisfied they say that in a short space miles that creek were staked. Work was commenced in earnest. men had proceeded to their informant left. Being himself and in the secret, Mr. Brown state that this discovery is a surprise. There is every reason to believe that the creek will produce gold in shallow in comparison Creek.

THE REPORTS SURFACE DIGGINGS.—The reports surface diggings are trying to reach the bed of the creek about six weeks before that a dozen Wellmen went of a creek about 10 miles from Williams Creek. They dug about 40 feet, in a short space miles that creek were staked. Work was commenced in earnest. men had proceeded to their informant left. Being himself and in the secret, Mr. Brown state that this discovery is a surprise. There is every reason to believe that the creek will produce gold in shallow in comparison Creek.

THE YIELD OF GOLD.—First of all is the actual Williams Creek. The daily "taken" out at present is, as near as possible, 100 oas. Of course it is some to arrive at any exact estimations in the yield of the are often very considerable, but amount may be depended on, whether than over the actual value the ground each day.

THE BED-ROCK DEPOSIT.—In at last almost a complete success, but eight or ten feet more before the whole of the claim would be freed from the contractors are expecting to tap this subterranean lake. This will bring several very vigorous work again, so that a daily look for the average amount to \$33,000 per day. The result of this creek alone, a million and a quarter for September.

LOWE'S CREEK.—Now giving about three a day will increase this perhaps six hundred ounces time so that the total amount

CARIBOO LETTERS.
WEEKLY OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.
THE DOCTOR WILLIAMS CREEK, July 30th.

EDITOR COLONIST:—You speak many able correspondents in the world, that it is almost impossible to get a letter from Cariboo property of your city is so connected with the success or non-success of districts, a word or two ment now and then may not come.

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BRITISH COLONIST--SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. 5. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1864. NO. 40.

CARIBOO LETTER.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Quesnelle Mouth, July 31st, '64.

CAPITAL VS. LABOR.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—As you were kind enough to publish the last letter I wrote to you some months since, I again trespass upon your courtesy to publish a few lines on different subjects, that have since come under my notice. The alterations made in the mining laws by the Executive Council have been productive of much benefit to the claim holders, and have facilitated the sale or transfer of claims; but it is absolutely necessary before the mines in Cariboo can, to any great extent, be worked satisfactorily in a remunerative point of view, that capital be invested to develop them, and therefore every thing should be done to encourage its investment, which can most safely be effected by showing that there is a great profit to be derived from and that the laws will protect and secure the property in which the capital is risked. The first will, I trust, be demonstrated to some extent this season by private enterprise, the second will depend on the steps taken by the Government. I spent several days on Williams and other creeks in the Cariboo district, and was astonished to see the enormous amount of labor that has been thrown away, arising chiefly from individual miners or companies of miners without capital, having worked to a great extent the mines in the above localities, and having few and in most cases no proper machinery or other facilities to work their claims with; these drawbacks would be much lessened were capital brought to bear, as proper machinery could at first be employed on the different creeks. I give two instances where capital is now being employed, both of which I am almost confident will turn out, with proper management, to be highly remunerative to the promoters and very beneficial to the country. The first one is the Williams Creek Bed Rock Flume Company, having a capital of \$300,000 in 4000 shares of \$50 per share. The whole of these shares have been taken up on the Creek, principally by miners long resident in the country, and who know well the prospects of the enterprise; this fact speaks volumes in its favor, more particularly when it is taken into consideration that this flume runs mostly through ground that once paid very richly, but now for the most part abandoned as not able to pay working expenses under the old system. The second is the Antler Bed Rock Flume Co. The promoters of this enterprise are Victoria merchants, who have formed a company with a nominal capital of \$60,000, but with an available one of \$50,000; the whole capital is divided into 2400 shares of \$25 each, one-half of the whole stock being retained by the original promoters and credited to them as paid up stock for their right to the lease from the Government. This Bed Rock Flume is under the management of Mr. J. Jennings, who resides on the spot and superintends the work. The position the flume will be constructed in the strongest and most substantial manner, and reflects great credit on Mr. Jennings. About 200 feet of the bed rock, and 400 feet of the lead flume are now completed and fit for use. The B. E. Flume will progress rapidly as soon as the blasting through the cañon is finished, the larger proportion of which is now done; as soon as this is completed the construction of the flume will be comparatively easy, and will pass through ground that I believe, from prospects I have taken from (one pan yield will pay largely, and immediately above the cañon are some of the celebrated '61 claims, one of which was held by Mr. Wm. Heselinge, the well known mining pioneer of Cariboo, to whom in connection with the unfortunate John Ross and a few others, the country owes so much. Before I went to Antler I heard many reports that led me to believe this undertaking would prove a failure, but I am convinced, after a careful examination of the creek and from the progress the work is making that it will be one of the best investments yet made in either colony, unless, as I before said, through mismanagement. It is not unlikely in my opinion that the company may require some \$15,000 or \$20,000 over and above the \$30,000 of available capital for a short time before large returns are made from the work, as by far the heaviest portion of the work is on the first section through the cañon; should it, however, be possible to run a portion of the pay dirt adjoining the flume and immediately above the cañon through it before the season closes, the probability is that it will be unnecessary to make a further call on the shareholders, as the return in the above case will doubtless be very great. I here mention a curious coincidence between the formation of the valleys of Williams and Antler creeks, where the greater portion of the mining has been performed. On Williams creek, the first claims that paid well were immediately above the cañon, where the valley opened out a little, and the present bed-rock flume is now in course of construction, whereas, below the cañon, the bottom of the valley opens out much more and with less fall to the creek until the "bottom" ultimately terminates in "the meadows;" the same is the case on Antler, the best claims that were worked being just above the cañon, and the valley below it widening considerably, with much less fall to the creek; so much so indeed that I apprehend the fall will be insufficient for a bed-rock flume; but, as on Williams creek, a bed-rock drain will doubtless pay well. The claims below the cañon on Williams creek are now the best paying ones—may this not also be the case on Antler? One great difference I noticed between the formation on the two creeks is that on Williams there is a very deep deposit of gravel, &c., above the bed-rock, in which the gold is found in different strata as well as on the bed-rock; whereas on Antler the gold is near the surface, and but little gold

found in the gravel, which for the most part is very loose, the gold having evidently worked through to the bed-rock where it is obtained, and even for two or three feet in the bed rock below the surface.

The above two examples, if successful, will at once show the great superiority of capital over individual enterprise without capital, in working ground when the amount of labor will necessarily be very great before a rich return can be made, and this is almost universally the case in Cariboo, the diggings not being "surface," or what are generally known as "poor men's diggings."

A RATHER CURIOUS STATE OF THINGS exists in Cariboo; wages are quoted and generally paid for at the rate of \$10 per day, although I believe, in a few instances, hands have been hired at \$8 per day; now, even a live well for \$2 or \$2½ per day, and I should say that from ½ to ¾ of the men on the creek are idle and asking for work; this being the case, the price of labor ought to come down, as there is really nothing to justify its present rate, and were it to come to its proper level I feel certain all would find employment, as there are many claims that would be worked were labor cheaper, but as at present it is, parties with only a limited capital feel that they would only throw away their means without achieving anything by employing labor at the present ridiculous rate. It would also have the effect of keeping a much larger population at work at good wages.

WANT OF TRAILS.

Since my arrival in the Cariboo country I have made several trips through different parts of the country where there are not trails, and I feel convinced that the cause of the little prospecting that has been done is chiefly owing to the impossibility of men with packs on their backs, and the necessary tools for prospecting, making their way through the woods, which are very dense indeed, and the ground covered with an immense quantity of fallen timber and almost impenetrable brushwood; so much so, indeed, that in many valleys I am certain men with packs could not travel over six or seven miles a day; and as a man cannot pack, in addition to his blankets and tools, more than grub enough to last eight days it is impossible for prospectors, under present circumstances, to get any distance from the stations where supplies can be procured. It appears to me that the opening of a few rough trails is very much called for, and were the Government at once to undertake cutting three or four of them, say four or six feet in width, simply cutting the underbrush and fallen timber so that men could conveniently get along with their packs or even with horses, they would be conferring the greatest benefit possible on the country, and were \$1,000 or \$1,200 spent in this way opening trails through such sections of country where gold is most likely to be found, a decided change for the better would take place, keep the present population busy prospecting, and encourage much larger emigration to the country next year, particularly as the wagon-road from the head of navigation on the Fraser to Williams Creek will be almost finished this year. Judging from the reports lately received at the Kootenais, a similar trail through the southern portion of the country eastward from the Shuswap to the head waters of the Columbia river and Rocky Mountains, and branching off these along the western slope of the auriferous range of mountains which extend from Cariboo into California, strike the Fraser north of the North Thompson river, would also attract many prospectors and lead to the discovery of new gold fields. This brings me to

ANOTHER SUBJECT.

Which I have always regretted the former government under Governor Douglas's administration strongly opposed, and that is the formation of say a couple of Government prospecting parties with a reliable person at the head of each, and three or four assistants, one of the parties to be employed examining the country north of Lake La Hache and east of the Fraser river, and the other the section south of the above latitude extending to the 49 degree parallel, and eastward to the Rocky Mountains. The heads of these parties to be men capable of examining and furnishing correct opinions as to the best lines for wagon roads and trails and approximate estimates of their cost of construction, also of any available spots fit for settlement, the supply of water, and other requirements necessary for a mining population.

THE LATE EXCITEMENT.

In the direction of Swamp river still continues to a certain extent, and I believe that diggings have really been found there, but cannot speak definitely about them just yet. The discovery of a rich bearing quartz vein on Cañon Creek near the town of Chisholm is an event long and anxiously looked for and will be productive of great results to the general welfare of the colony. This vein crosses the new line of wagon road about nine miles from Camerontown. I leave the amounts of the yield of gold from the different claims, and other local news to the able pen of your special correspondent, whose letters I have carefully read.

THE GOVERNOR'S DEPARTURE.

His Excellency Governor Seymour left the Mouth of Quesnelle on Saturday evening the 30th July accompanied by Lieutenant Cooper and Mr. Evans on his way to Richmond, and proposes visiting, personally, all the most important mining districts, asking from his prompt attention to all matters brought under his notice, and his evident intention to promote by every possible effort on his part the mining and other interests of the country has won the golden opinions of the inhabitants of Cariboo.

COPPER MOUNTAIN.

Letters from the manager of this mine at Alberni, and specimens of the ore, were received in town yesterday. The report continues favorable.

FROM THE NORTH.

Arrival of the Mission Schooner *Carolena*.

Mr. Duncan's mission schooner *Carolena*, Capt. McKinnon, arrived in port on Friday afternoon, having left Metlakah on July 25th. Down to Fort Rupert she had strong south-east gales, and thence almost continual calms.

AT THE MISSION.

All the settlers are well and prosperous. The crops are very good, wheat, barley, peas, potatoes, &c., being cultivated by the Indians with success. The take of furs, skins, oil, &c., has also been unusually good.

A NEW MISSION.

Is about to be started at Nass river. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Dolan started for that district shortly before the *Carolena* left. The intention is to found a similar establishment to that at Metlakah.

THE NORTHERN GOLD DIGGINGS.

Reports from Indian sources, which were deemed reliable, had reached the mission that Sebastopol and his party were meeting with very fair success at the Skeena river mines. They were said to be taking out from \$5 to \$7 per day, and to be perfectly well satisfied with their prospects. Capt. McKinnon says there are many places on the Northern coast where, he is convinced, good "poor men's diggings" may be found.

THE COB FISHERY.

Capt. McKinnon brings most gratifying news in regard to the success of the cod-fishing expedition lately sent North by Mr. C. B. Young. Mr. Compton, the Hudson Bay Company's agent in charge at Fort Rupert, informed him that the crew of the schooner *Noupareil* had taken in one night, at Newby, no fewer than two hundred and fifty fine large cod fish, with their hand lines. The fish were of excellent quality, and Mr. Compton believes the fishery will be a great success.

THE COAL FIRMS OF THE NORTH.

The *Carolena* brought down five bags of coal taken from Quaseeno, the property of Messrs. J. R. Stewart & Co., of this city. The samples were sent across to Fort Rupert by land, where they were shipped on the *Carolena*. The coal closely resembles that of Nanaimo. The Fort Rupert Coal Company, a short distance south of the Fort, have got out about 20 tons, ready for shipment, and wished the *Carolena* to take it down, which, however, Capt. McKinnon was unable to do.

INDIANS SAUVAGE.

Capt. McKinnon says he nearly got into trouble with the Indians at Selma river, on his way down. They boarded the schooner, and when ordered off became violent and abusive, and he was very glad to escape from them without being attacked. Their insolence is doubtless caused by the belief that they can insult the white men with impunity, seeing that the murderers at Bute and Bettlicock have not been punished for their atrocities.

A SHIP IN DANGER.

While coming down Queen Charlotte Sound Capt. McKinnon saw a large ship, apparently an American whaler, in a heavy gale, running under double reefed topsails. She was in rather a bad place, unless the captain was familiar with the waters in that locality.

SEMPER PARADOXICUS.

In Fitzhugh Sound the *Carolena* met two white men, belonging to a party of four traders who had been driven ashore in a canoe on an island in that Sound. They had been picked up by some Indians and taken to their village. Capt. McKinnon offered them a passage down, but their accusers were disinclined to part with them without a "giltig potlatch," which he was not disposed to give. He however, supplied the men with what necessities they required and left them with the Indians, who undertook to bring them down to Victoria, in expectation of a reward for their humanity.

A VALUABLE CARGO.

The *Carolena* brings down a rather large cargo of furs, skins, oil, &c., including 1000 mink and 97 martens. The value is nearly \$4000.

IMMIGRATION FROM THE WEST INDIES.

In the *West Indian* of June 24th we notice a letter from Bishop Hills, advocating the settlement of intending emigrants in the fertile valleys of British Columbia. The Lord Bishop quotes at great length from "Jottings" in that colony, which appeared in the columns of the *Colonist*.

A gentleman writing from Barbadoes under date June 25th, to a friend in this city refers as follows to the emigration movement:

"I am glad that you have had the proposed emigration from here noticed in your daily papers and hope it will lead to some remarks from the editors and others your way, as such importation will be useful to the people on this side. Except the opening of a share list nothing of consequence has been done in the matter lately. The shares are \$5, and it is proposed that so soon as 200 shares shall have been subscribed, six of the company go over to purchase or secure the land and take all preliminary steps."

We are glad that it has been wisely determined to send a deputation to these colonies before the tide of immigration begins to flow hitherward. We doubt not that the capabilities of the country will afford profitable means of employment to any number of industrious men who may direct their steps to our shores, but we are as yet in a crude state, and we should prefer, therefore, that parties should come and see for themselves what inducements they can find.

INQUEST ON THE LATE MR. HUGHES.

A coroner's inquest was held Thursday, at half-past twelve o'clock, in the Police Court on the body of the late Mr. C. J. Hughes. Mr. Seaby was appointed foreman. After the jury viewing the body at Eberhardt's Hotel—

Police officer Turner was examined, who stated that he had waited on Mr. Hughes when he arrived at Sooke, as resident magistrate. In course of conversation, Mr. Hughes told me that he wished to try his pistol, and asked me to load it; I did so, and he fired it off, and I loaded it again for him; he said he thought the pistol had not been fired since last winter. This was about noon on Wednesday; after he had tried it, he handed it to me, and I went to Elliott & Stuart's store, and re-loaded the pistol; it was an English "six-shooter" (pistol produced). I gave him the pistol; I then went up the river a short distance, and on returning, went to dinner, during which the steamer *Alexandra* came in; I wondered why Mr. Hughes did not make his appearance, as I knew he wanted to send some letters to Victoria, when Mr. Gladwin came running, saying Mr. Hughes was shot. When I first saw him he was being carried down by two men on a cot; I saw the wound on the breast; it was about the size of half a dollar; saw the wounds in the back where the bullets came out. Deceased was quite sensible when I saw him first; I asked him who shot him, and he said "time would show." I asked him again if he shot himself, and he said "yes." I asked him if it was accidental, to which he replied "yes." Some one else asked him if it was with a gun, to which he said "yes." He replied "yes" to almost everything asked of him. All the barrels of the pistol were loaded by me, and they had all been discharged. I found on his person a knife, silver watch, a pair of sleeve-studs, a ring, and a leather watch-guard and key. I found no money. I caused him to be conveyed on board the steamer. No intelligible answers were obtained to questions asked of him while on board the steamer; the wound exhibited a black and charred appearance, as if the pistol had been close to the body; he had on an Inverness cape; the body was discovered I think about half-past one; the wounds were dressed by Costello; there was a doctor about two miles from the spot, but he could not be reached, and had to be carried down to deceased. Deceased appeared quite sane. I am not positive about the time of the different occurrences, as I had no watch.

Mr. George Stuart, of the firm of Elliott, Stuart & Co. was next examined. He testified that he met Mr. Hughes on the steamer, on board the steamer. The day previous, Mr. Hughes asked him to make some arrangements for sending up some goods to Mr. Gollidge. I had some further conversation with him, during which he seemed quite easy and composed. Next morning he came ashore to our store; he sat down to write there, and I remarked that he had his hand on the paper to conceal what he was writing from any one passing. About nine o'clock, deceased ate some biscuit and cheese, and asked me for some essence of ginger; I had none, so gave some ginger brandy, of which he drank about a quarter of a wine glass; he had some money on his person, which he gave me the constant \$1 I think; to buy caps; saw more money in his hand; when he asked for the ginger, he said he felt very weak; I believe he had one glass of sherry before this. I never saw him after this, till he was brought back on the steamer. Mr. John Costello testified that he had seen Mr. Hughes go into the woods along the Sooke trail; witness went into the woods himself about fifty yards from where Mr. Hughes went in, and in a few minutes he fired a pistol fired off six distinct times closely following each other; this was about five minutes past 12; about 1 o'clock saw the body after it was brought out of the woods; witness at once threw open the clothes of deceased and dressed the wounds. Deceased answered "yes" to everything that was asked of him.

The coroner here stated that he had before him the papers found near the body, but he would first read them to see what portions were necessary to lay before the jury for the elucidation of the case. There might be private statements which it would not be advisable to publish.

A juror here suggested that it would be better for the jury to decide that point, to which the coroner replied that the law gave him the power to lay before the jury what portions of the papers he saw fit.

An official letter from the deceased to the Colonial Secretary was read, also a lengthy statement of the feelings and circumstances which led to the commission of the rash deed, but which we suppress, at the request of his most intimate friends. The purport of the document, which was rather confusedly written on several pieces of paper, was that debt, pecuniary difficulties, and the consciousness of living under false pretences, urged him to self-immolation. The papers and envelopes enclosing them, were marked with broken and incoherent ejaculations, in pencil, written after the perpetration of the fatal act, and expressing his strong sense of the fearful nature of the crime he had committed.

Mr. Lumley Franklin here asked to be sworn, as he could show that some of the written statements of deceased were erroneous. Witness testified that the statements that deceased owed Messrs. Franklin a large sum of money was incorrect; Mr. Hughes had a sum of money in our possession; and was authorized to draw on us for all he wanted; I am not aware that he owes any considerable amount in town or anywhere else. Deceased had lately been seriously ill; about four months ago he burst a blood vessel; and had been under medical treatment up to the time of his leaving. Deceased had made all possible arrangements for his position at Sooke, and left in the best of spirits, and I

cannot conceive any inducement whatever for his act. I have known deceased about ten years and cannot understand why he should allude to "false pretences" or "duplicity."

Captain Nagle, a juror, asked if deceased took any money down with him, to which Mr. Franklin replied that he had given deceased \$20 just before leaving.

The juror remarked that it was strange no money had been found on the body.

An officer being despatched to search the body found \$17 50.

After a brief consultation the jury returned a verdict of—Died by his own hand while in a state of temporary insanity.

CANADA.

DATES TO JULY 1ST.

Dreadful Railway Accident—Two Hundred Lives Lost.

An emigrant train from Quebec to Montreal carrying 354 German immigrants, went through the open draw bridge into the river Richelieu near St. Hilaire on June 28th, and nearly 200 of the unfortunate travellers, comprising a great many women and children, were killed, and a large number of others frightfully mutilated. The accident appears to have been caused by the negligence of the engine driver, as the proper danger signals were made and were plainly visible from the train.

The immigrants came by the Necker, which arrived at Quebec on June 27th, from Bremen via Hamburg. They landed 639 in number, 13 having died on the passage. One, an old man of 82, died after reaching Quebec. A number left for the west on the 28th and 29th started by this unfortunate train. A few families remained behind. There were Austrians, Prussians, Swedes, Danes, Bohemians, Poles, and, in one or two cases, Italians. They were bound for Wisconsin, via Chicago—most of them to meet friends already settled in that region.

The *Toronto Globe* thus describes the scene:

The cars lie mostly a pile of fragments crushed together, resting on the barge which was fortunately passing through at the moment of the accident. Had the cars fallen into the open water, the number of deaths caused by being crushed in the smashing of the cars must have been added a vast number. The cars had passed except two. Those on the barge actually passed through the bridge saw the train coming, knew what must happen, and jumping on the barge behind saved their lives. The locomotive lies submerged in the water out of sight. The appearance presented by the wreck is impossible to describe. The train consisted of two or three second class cars, and the remainder box cars fitted up with benches for the emigrants. The two or three last cars, when we arrived at the scene of the accident, about seven o'clock, remained on the top of the pile comparatively unbroken; the rest were a confused broken heap, some lying on their sides, others upside down, broken into and crushed by these above them, while in some cases a car lay flattened almost like a pancake, between two others. The wheels lay confusedly scattered here and there through the heap. The legs of a child might be seen protruding from under a plank; at another place a man's head severed from the body, which appeared like a shapeless mass of bloody clothes. The bridge, which is a tubular iron structure, the cars running along the top of the tube—is some 35 feet high, counting from the level of the rails to the level of the water. The width opened by the sawing, which is at the western extremity of the bridge, is about 60 feet.

GRAND FIRE IN BRANTFORD.—The machine shop of the B. & L. H. Railroad, in Brantford, was destroyed by an incendiary fire on the 26th June, causing a loss of \$50,000. The premises were insured in the "Royal" for \$30,000. Another great fire occurred in Nanaimo the week previous, destroying sawmills, cabinet factory, &c., to the value of \$50,000. No insurance.

TROOPS FOR CANADA.—The 1st battalion of the 25th regiment, Colonel Fane commanding, arrived at Quebec from Malta on June 27th on board the steam troop ship *Himalaya*. It numbered 758 officers and men; there are also 165 women and children. The 2nd regiment go home by the same vessel.

PROBATION OF PARLIAMENT.—The Canadian Parliament was prorogued on June 30th.

ESTABLISHED 1764.—We have before us a copy of the centenary edition of the *Quebec Gazette*, a paper which first saw the light in the ancient capital of Lower Canada, on the 21st of June, 1764. The publishers, Messrs. Middleton & Dawson, have made a grand effort, and laid before their readers a mammoth centenary number, containing sixteen pages, beautifully illustrated with cuts of the citadel, fortifications, buildings, etc., of that famous stronghold, and filled with interesting matter culled from its files of 100 years back, forming a kind of historical essay on the colony and city, and on the journal so intimately identified with both. Among other interesting circumstances, the publishers mention that they have on their list subscribers of 20, 30, and 40 years standing, and the descendants of gentlemen who supported the paper 100 years ago! Enclosed in the centenary number is a *fac simile* of the first copy of the *Gazette*, which, the publishers state, was not only the first paper, but the first printing done in Canada. We believe the *Gazette* is the oldest paper published on the American continent, with the exception of one published in Massachusetts, which is its senior by a few years.

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