

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

DURING the past month, we have received three packets of dispatches from Western Australia—namely, letters to the 15th September, by the *Hawk* *via* Singapore—letters and papers to August 1st, by the *Champion* to Singapore *via* Batavia, and letters and papers to the 26th June, by the *John Bagshaw*, also *via* Singapore.

By these arrivals we are enabled to carry on, from No. 34, our

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:
SESSION 1846.

July 2.—The Council assembled after its long adjournment occasioned by the serious indisposition of his Excellency the Governor. Mr. Singleton's resolutions on the land question were brought forward at this sitting. They repeated the reiterated protest of the colonists against the existing regulations, and recommended the cession at least of the right of preemption or of preferable renewal. Both he and Mr. Leake, who seconded the motion, indignantly protested against the trifling displayed by successive Governments with this vital subject. The Advocate General, although not supporting the regulations, doubted whether they had had the ill effects ascribed to them. If the resolution merely stated that their effect was *calculated to be*, instead of asserting that it *had been*, injurious, he would vote for it. Mr. Mackie thought this distinction forced, and would vote for the motion as it stood. The Surveyor General, supporting the motion, defended the policy of the Government in giving greater attractions for emigrants to Canada and the Cape, in order to balance against French, American, and Dutch influence. Mr. Singleton replied stigmatising the measures of the Government as a breach of faith and threatening to move an annual condemnation of them. The resolution condemning the system of selling Crown lands was then passed, the Advocate General only dissenting, and the second resolution advocating the right of preemption was carried unanimously. Mr. Leake took occasion to prove from the return made by the Government, that impediments were thrown in the way of purchasers of small lots of land at the *minimum* price, which the Surveyor General had at a former sitting denied. In reply to a question from Mr. Singleton, the Governor, Advocate General, and Mr. Mackie, concurred in the opinion that there is no reservation on the part of Government, of copper mines found in Western Australia, the royalty applying only to mines of gold, silver, and, perhaps, platina. The Council then adjourned, *sine die*.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.—The Annual General Meeting of the proprietary of this bank, was held on the 8th July, J. S. Roe, Esq., in the chair. The proceedings consisted of little more than the production of the half yearly report declaring a dividend of 5s. *per share* or rather above 12½ *per cent*, the vote of £50 to the widow of the late cashier, and the election for his successor, which, as we have already reported, fell upon Mr. Lochée.

PRICES CURRENT in Perth, July 29th.—Brandy, *per* gallon 14s. to 16s.; Rum 12s. 6d.—Porter £6 *per* hhd., or 12s. 6d. *per* dozen.—Bacon, *per* lb, 10d.; Hams, 10d., Butter, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.; Cheese, 10d.—Bread, *per* 2lb. loaf, 6d.; Flour, *per* lb., 2½d.—Candles, *per* lb., 2s.; Oil, (black), *per* gallon, 2s. to 3s., ditto, (boiled), 9s.—Cigars, (Manilla), *per* bundle, 1s. 4d.; Tobacco, *per* lb., 3s.—Coffee, *per* lb., 6d. and 7d.; Tea, 1s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; Sugar, 3d. to 6d.—Soap, 6d. to 8d.—Raisins, 6d. to 7d.; Currants, 1s.—Potatoes, *per* cwt., 10s.—Beef, *per* lb., 5d. to 5½d.; Mutton, 4½d. to 5½d.; Veal, 8d.; Lamb, 6d.; Pork, 8d.; Sausages, 1s.—Bullocks, each, £7 to £10; fat ditto, (not for working), £5 to £8; Milch Cows, £6 to £8; Ewes, 7s. to 10s.; Wethers, 12s. to 17s.; Lambs, 8s. 6d.; Horses, £10 to £30.—Wheat, *per* bushel, 7s.; Barley, 6s.; Oats, 5s.

GENERAL NEWS.

CULTIVATION OF OLIVES.—Mr. Jecks, of Guildford, has entered upon the cultivation of the olive, on rather an extensive scale, and it is a new feature in this kind of work that it is being performed entirely by natives.—ILLNESS OF THE GOVERNOR. We are very glad to find, by the *Inquirer* of the 29th July, that both the Governor and the Surveyor General were recovering from the effects of their late severe illness.—THE EDITORSHIP OF THE "INQUIRER." The *Inquirer* of the 22nd and 29th July, contains addresses from the late Editor on relinquishing, and the present Editor on assuming, the management of the paper—the former expressing his thanks for past favors: the latter his determination to deserve continued support *Nous verrons*.—THE PROTEST AGAINST CONVICTS. Mr. Gladstone's dispatch in reply to the protest of the colonists against the admission into the colony of convicts with provisional pardons, (see SWAN RIVER NEWS, No. 25), was published by the Governor. It amounts to a simple refusal to alter the regulation complained of.—PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS are increasing beyond our power of noticing them separately. A return cricket match on May 21st., another cricket match on June 1st, a *Soirée Musicale*, on the same day, under the arrangement of Don Rosendo

Salvado, a Catholic Missionary, for the benefit of the mission, (which realised about £8 by the performance), and a concert in aid of the organ fund of Perth Church, on the 15th July, are reported in the present file of papers.—

THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS. The rules and regulations of the proposed Government Educational Establishments, appear in the *Government Gazette* of June 17th. It appears that children of both sexes, all denominations and classes are to be admitted—those who are destitute free of charge, and those capable of payment, on terms varying from 2d. to 4s. *per* week, according to their means as attested by a local magistrate.—**THE YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY** in their sixth annual report state that the harvest had been the best and largest ever known in the district. Sheep and horned cattle were increasing rapidly, and the breed of horses improving with the view to exportation. Wheat had greatly increased in cultivation which was not the case with barley owing to the prohibition on distillation, nor oats, for which the soil seems hardly suited. The cultivation of hay and of potatoes, vines, and fruits was increasing; but it was feared the drops of lambs would be short owing to the late burning of the pasture in bush fires.—**SURVEY OF PEEL HARBOUR, AND DISCOVERY OF PORT GLADSTONE.** In consequence of the discovery made by the correspondent of the *SWAN RIVER NEWS*, (who purposely visited Peel Harbour to report upon its alleged capabilities), that it had gradually filled up, the Surveyor General was dispatched by the Government to enquire into the matter. His report dated July 13th, entirely confirms that of our reporter published in our August number, and recommends a series of operations by which the mischief may be arrested or the lost Harbour reclaimed. This visit of the Surveyor General led to the discovery of Port Gladstone, with the excellent situation of which he was so much struck, that he recommended its adoption to the Government, so that the colony is, for this valuable discovery, indirectly indebted to the late active correspondent of the *SWAN RIVER NEWS*.—**PROGRESS OF THE SURVEYS.** Mr. Assistant Surveyor Gregory had just completed the surveys of the Swan, Canning, Toodyay, Cockburn Sound, Wellington, and Murray districts, 65,487 acres or sixteen grants in the William's River district, and 27,068 acres, or seventeen grants in the Kojonup district, and had nearly completed the surveys in the Avon district.—**THE "LIGHTNING."** had ridden out one of the most violent gales in perfect safety, in Owen's Anchorage, in the last week in July, and sailed for Adelaide as soon as they subsided.—**THE "RIVER CHIEF,"** as we stated a month ago, was sold to a mercantile house at Adelaide

for a third of her value; she cost, it appears £1500, and realised £500, £280 being yet required together ready for sea.—**CAPTAIN SCOTT,** the harbour master at Fremantle, had gained great *eclat* by piloting the *Lightning* through a passage prohibited by Government (when the other passage was closed against her by the weather) in perfect safety, and with the most consummate skill and deliberate courage. It was expected that the reputed dangers of this passage, under Carnac Island, would now be inquired into, as it is the sixth time Captain Scott has used it with success.

FROM OUR PRIVATE INFORMATION.

FURTHER DISCOVERIES OF MINERALS!

WE have been favored with communications from Sir James Stirling, (the first Governor of the Colony) Mr. T. R. C. Walters, and Mr. A. Shenton, announcing discoveries of minerals by their respective correspondents. Sir James Stirling's letters inform him that traces of a mine of copper or lead, or both have been discovered on his Woodbridge Estate. as well as indications of coal; also, that on Government land, about eighteen or twenty miles from Guildford, a mine of tin, with a large proportion of silver, has been discovered. This letter is from Mr. Abraham Jones, of Woodbridge, and is dated "15th September," from Guildford. Mr. Shenton writes, (under date "September 13th,") "We are now in a state of great excitement respecting minerals, *good specimens of the ores of copper and tin* being found; and great hopes are entertained of the Coal Mines." Mr. Walters' letters announce the discovery of copper on the grant of Mr. Lukin, at the Toodyay about 12 or 14 miles west of Mr. Davey's grant; and on Mr. Dempster's, 6 or 7 miles north of it, ore supposed to be of tin or platina.

THE OLIVES.—Mr. Jones in his letter to Sir James Stirling, quoted above, adds, "The olives are thriving well, as also many other of the fruit trees, this season."

PROSPECTS OF THE COLONY.—Mr. A. Shenton in his letter dated September 13th, says, "Our exports this year will amount to nearly £30,000; far exceeding our imports. The timber trade is also beginning to flourish, many parties having lately engaged in it. Orders for it have been received from the South Australian Government, but to carry it on, in the way its quality deserves, we require a large increase to our laboring population which now is not adequate to the demand. Sawyers &c. are in good requisition—in fact not to be got."

MARRIAGE.

Bracher, Mr. G., to Miss J. L. Hall, at Perth,
June 12th.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS AT FREMANTLE.—*John Bayshaw*, Dare, June 8, from London.—*Champion*, Helpman, 11, from Adelaide.—*Venus*, Thomas, 14, from Adelaide.—*Lightning*, Robertson, 27, from Singapore.

DEPARTURES FROM FREMANTLE.—*Lightning*, Robertson, 22 June, for Adelaide.—*Unicorn*, Mullings, from London, for Swan River, arrived at Algoa Bay, Nov. 3.

PASSENGER LIST.—*Venus*, from Adelaide; Mr. Stirling.—*Lightning*, for Adelaide; Messrs. Vigors and W. Samson.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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