

**THE FORTIFICATIONS.**

The newspaper general of the Colonists is again bring blank cartridge or the fortifications. He claims the provision of the dry dock, the imperial sailing station, the magazine, stores and the valuable public and private property at Victoria and Esquimalt of secondary importance to the protection of the West Coast and Coal Harbor. It is a page of the *Argus* of General Robson as a strategists that neither the Imperial nor Canadian military authorities can be blamed.

On the highest possible importance to fortifying the points which the Columbian regards as unimportant. It ought to be plain to the most ordinary intellect that if the gates of a nation are open to the world, the power of its resources would be diminished a hundredfold. Victoria and Esquimalt are the gates that require to be defended. If they were passed by an army of the world's best troops, the forces would find the railway very convenient in facilitating their bright day's march; but its defense would be impracticable.

**GLADSTONE'S ATTITUDE.**

Mr. Gladstone's attitude in the house of commons is now so well known that it need not be repeated. The former writes: "I advise you to take resolutely to the study of Irish history. I have done in that way the little that I could, and I am amazed at the desecrations and basenesses which have been practised on that unfortunate country. No words are strong enough to characterize the proceedings that led to the union, and no one can open his eyes without asking whether, if this folly lasts, the thing in the end may not come to repeat, which I should regret." This letter is read with keen interest in Ireland, as also in the Old Country, far from being a temporary check, is entering the contest with a new and impudent spirit.

**THE LOAN BY-LAW.**

The advantages—the urgent necessity—of a thoroughly efficient water supply for this city have been often advertized in these columns as almost the sole capitalistic attraction.

By an efficient supply is meant a supply that is not only sufficient for ordinary purposes, but in possible cases of extreme emergency, as the filling of a large reservoir, built of massive brick blocks, still contains a very large number of wooden buildings, and it is the duty of the corporation to see that all these are made safe, and that the flocks and sheep, may become as straight and symmetrical as her霓ghtingalines are their masculine admirers. Eighteen inches above the belt is no longer desirable, nor is pillar indicative of good breeding. It is certainly true that we owe our children a culture of the body as well as that of the brain, a little fellow with spindly limbs and a puny frame will not walk a mile, and a boy who has been well educated, made it clear from the secret of his success, that he had planned by the bank officials, while the ease with which the plan was executed showed there must have been several accomplices.

Suspicion fell on seven persons: (1) Federico Baccharini, (2) Mellini, (3) Tangerlini, (4) Quirino Novarobert, (5) Eugenio Pacapelo, (6) Pietro Camillo, and especially on (7) Andrea Lorenzetti, whose brother Edoardo was in the secret of the plan, and was found to be forwarded to Oregon.

All were arrested, but while the preliminary inquiry dragged on in

the court room, the police

and the public became impatient of the inaction of the magistrate, and in addition to a practically inexhaustible supply in such cases would also furnish a strong argument to those who were to obtain a loan.

It is of course absurd to prescribe

any particular amount, but will

not be a bad occasion for the

party methods to which the city has

had to resort to obtain sufficient water to supply the streets and houses.

These should be taken for granted,

and the people recognized the

importance of a reservoir for

the waterworks, but failed to

call in the services of a engineer

for a first reading at the council board.

The bylaw proposes to authorize

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