

British Columbia.

The Courier wants a board of trade established at Nanaimo.

A fruit growers association for the province will be organized.

Lake Winnipeg whitefish have been shipped to Kamloops recently.

J. J. Cowderoy, general merchant, Vancenver, advertises selling out.

The Vancouver World has issued a very creditable Christmas number.

Creighton, Fraser & Co. have commenced business at Vancouver, as ship chandlers.

J. D. Woodhill, a practical tanner, has leased the tannery at Nanaimo and will operate it.

Dobson & Son have commenced the manufacturing of heating appliances and elevating machinery generally at Vancouver.

The steamship Batavia sailed on Christmas day from Vancouver for Yokohama with four passengers, 56 Chinese and 1,150 tons of cargo.

While digging a well near Brackman & Ker's mill at Saanich, Vancouver Island, Walter Campbell struck a seam of coal only twenty feet below the surface.

The Victoria council has granted to D. W. Higgins, J. D. Warren and thers a franchise for fifty years to lay tracks for street cars and to string wires for electric lighing and other purposes throughout the city.

Donald 2 ruth says : Miss Lena Anderson has purchased a three-year lease of the Gold House, one of Vancouver's best hotels, and leaves Donald to take charge of the business.

G. O. Buchanan has been granted the timber limits 1 e applied for near Nelson, in the Toad Mountain country, and has a saw mill lying at Spokanc Falls, which he intends shipping in as soon as transportation can be had in the spring.

Thirteen and a half tons of shell fish, sca weed and other barnacles have been removed from the hull of the steamer Olympian in the dry dock at Esquimalt. Relieved of this load, the steamer will make better time than she has of late.

At a meeting of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital committee a resolution to accept the tender of John Elford for the erection of the building for the sum of \$50,500 was duly carried, and the building committee was authorised to proceed at once with the work.

A couple of Chinese girls, disguised as klootchmen (squaws), left Victoria recently for Washington Territory, and reached Tacoma before being discovered. The custom house officer at that port discovered their disguise, and the two women were arrested for trying to evade the Chinese restriction law.

Application will be made to the provincial legislature at the coming session for a charter and land grant for a railway to be built from some point on or near Butte Inlet through the Chilcoten and Cariboo districts and Yellowhead Pass, to connect with a probable extension of the Manitoba & Northwestern road from Winnipeg.

The C. P. Ry. Co. has a store at Donald, for the purpose of selling goods to employees, and others not in the employ of the company have also been in the habit of buying goods at the store. The Donald merchants want the store closed up, and they urge, with good reason, that it is unfair that they should be obliged to compete with the C. P. R.

Some years ago the United States Government stocked the Sacremento river, California, with shad, a fish not previously found on the Pacific coast. The fish have increased very rapidly, and are now a great source of wealth to California. The fish have been going north gradually, and have now reached the B. C. coast. Several were caught in the Fraser river the past season.

The Victoria Standard of last week mentions that butterflies were flitting about, and adds : New instances of the mildness of the weather crops up in the fact that an apple tree in G. Pottinger's garden is itt full bloom, and a gladiolus of this season's growth, fully fifteen inches in height, has been grown in the garden of Thos Partridge, where an apple tree is now putting forth leaves for the second time this year. So far there have been no frosts, and I



L'ORTAGE LA L'RAIRIE, Dec. Sthi, ISS7. JAMES PYE, ESQ., Minncapolis, Minn., U.S.A.: DEAR SIR, --In handing you our check for \$1,301.24, in full for balance or your contract for building and eularg-ing our mill, we without solicitation wish to state, that you have done your work in a manner highly salislaterory to this company. The capacity which you guaranteed at 275 barrels we find considerably under the nuark, as we are at present making over 300 barrels, and the qual-ity of the flour is all that we could wish for. Some of our largest purchasers trankly tell us, it is equal to any flour made in either Minntsota or this province. The yield also we find very satisfactory. We must also bear testimony to your pleasing and gentlemanly manner, and your willingness at alt times to meet our wishes. This has made our bushess relations pleasant and we can hon-estly sav, that we recommend you to any person, require-ing mything in the full building or mill furnishing finc. Mishing you the success that straight dealing merits, we are Yours very truly, THE PORTAGE MILLING CO. Jas. MacLenaghan, Managing Director.

evidently the next winter, if there is one, will be the mildest within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

An Ottawa telegram of Dec. 17, says :--Hon-J. Robson, Provincial Secretary of British Columbis, left for home to-night. During stay he had conference with all the Ministers.

The questions discussed were county court judges, Skeena river troubles, Alaska boundary, railway lands, Iodian matters. He also urged the Government to provide a revenue cutter for the Pacific coast. Hon. Mr. Bowell promised a remission of duty on machinery imported for mining purposes by the Provincial Government.

The Victoria Colonist says : It is very unfortunate that the delicious fish which, as far as known, is peculiar to the waters of the North Pacific, has been called the "bluck cod." It is not a codfish. It does not resemble the cod in any single particular, except perhaps slightly in its shape. So far from being like the codfish it is strikingly unlike it. The cod is a lean fish, its meat is dry-the skil, as it ought to be called, is an extremely fat fish, its flesh is juicy and its flavor, either fresh or salt, is simply delicious. It would be impossible to cure the skil by drying it. It is altogether too fat and its flesh too delicate. It is a great deal more like a mackerel than a codfish, and any one that tries it will find it for a breakfast relish not only an excellent substitute for that fish, but greatly its superior in delicacy of flavor. We trust that the name "black cod" arbitrarily chosen, and greatly misleading, will fall into disuse and that the fish will be made known to the world by its native name "Skil."

The Nanaimo Morning Courier, the new journal published in the "Black Diamond City," has made its appearance. It is a neatly printed and newsy little paper, and its editorials have a sound ring about them. The initial number gives a very full description of the town of Nanaimo, from which we learn that the place has a population of from five to six thousand, exclusive of the adjoining town of Wellington. Coal mining is the principal industry of the place. The mines at present being operated are three in number, and all are