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right to expect that their public buildings shall be something better than rickety and unsubstantial wooden structures. The public buildings of Nanaimo should be of such a character as to give tone and substantiality as well as architectural beauty to the town—something that the people might be proud of, and such as would give strangers a favorable impression. And the new buildings will have inaugurated the

are concerned. When the estimates were before the Legislature, we took occasion to point out the glaring inadequacy of the sum set down for the Nanaimo gaol, and expressed the hope that it might be largely supplemented; but, unfortunately for Nanaimo, its representative was so completely absorbed in the unselfish (?) work of keeping away the Canadian Tariff and cheap bread and beer that he could not well be expected to give much attention to other matters, even if that attention would have availed aught; so the insignificant item passed. The Nanaimo gaol ought to be of stone, an abundant supply of the very first quality of which is close at hand. With say, a couple or three thousand dollars, one section might have been built now, with a view to extension and completion hereafter; but to expend seven hundred and fifty dollars upon a wooden gaol, almost within stone throw of the celebrated Newcastle quarry which is supplying materials for the public buildings of San Francisco, appears to us to be the acme of thrift and impolicy. It is little better than throwing the money away. There are many other matters which might be mentioned, in illustration of our subject,—such, for instance as the gross injustice of leaving settlers in the rural portions of the District to make their own roads and bridges, while they are, at the same time, compelled to pay a very heavy road tax, and, as it would appear, are debarred from having an opportunity even to get work upon the roads! It seems that all the road work must be done by strangers, and that, too, while there are plenty of good hands and men in the locality and from whose pockets the road-tax is fished, in want of employment. Such strange freaks of unfairness are altogether inexplicable, and ought not to be tolerated. There are many other matters concerning Nanaimo which we could wish to touch upon, but which considerations of space and of the reader's patience induce us to remit to a future article.

Montana Immigration.—A gentleman writing us from Clinton says a large Montana immigration is anticipated and quite a large number have already gone through for Omineca. The men all seem well provided, riding on a horse and leading another loaded with food, &c. Two pack-trains (empty of goods) and a number of pack-horses are being bought for Peace River. The trains belong to Lehman Bros. of Montana.

The Keyser Fallers.—Drays continued throughout yesterday to haul goods from the store of J. P. Davies on Wharf street back to the premises formerly occupied by J. W. Keyser. In the corner-store of late has appeared a sign bearing the inscription of J. P. Davies & Co. The first coat of the goods seized by the Sheriff, it is estimated, will cover the whole amount of the indebtedness of Keyser at San Francisco.

Education in Seattle.—At a meeting of taxpayers for 'school' district No. 1, held on Tuesday last, the committee reported. The report shows that the sum of \$4,100 had been raised by tax levies. The people of Seattle would seem to appreciate the value of education rather more highly than some people on this side of the water.

Decorations Day.—This is the day which is appointed to be observed throughout the United States for decorating the graves of those who fell during the rebellion. Many a tear will be shed to-day over the brave ones who laid down their lives for the Union.

The Irish Episcopal Church.—The General Synod of the recently disestablished Irish Church, lately holding session at Dublin, has been engaged in the work of revising the book of Common Prayer. Disestablishment appears to have induced new life into the church.

Failed to Apprehend.—John Dougherty, who was on Saturday last convicted of an assault on Miss Maud Stewart and remanded on his own recognizance to appear yesterday for sentence, failed to make his appearance, consequently his recognizance was forfeited.

Blasphemy a Crime.—Wm L Jones has been tried in Australia before a jury, convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and to be imprisoned for two years.

The Pursuer of the Opposition Steamship.—The pursuer of the opposition steamship Constantine to Portland is Richard Stark, Esq.

Letter from Skeena.

SKEENAMOUTH, May 22.

No news from the mines. Mr Hankin returned to the settlement from the Forks on the 19th inst. Some 250 men had gone through from thence to Babine Lake, and a few from the latter point towards the mines. The river is rising very rapidly and in a few weeks boating will cease for awhile.

Mr Moore has arrived safely at the Forks with the males in very good condition, they having

been subjected to one ailment, which fell over a precipice and broke its neck.

Mr Dowdney has surveyed the route for the trail from the Forks to Babine Lake and returned to the former place, but great discontent exists among the miners in view of the fact that two months of good weather have gone by and nothing done towards cutting the trail. Everybody is 'hoyon silex.'

Flour is selling at the Forks at 12½ cents per lb, and at Tahla Landing at 50 cents per lb, and other provisions in proportion. Indians are packing from the Forks to Babine Lake for 10 cents per lb.

The Grappler arrived yesterday morning, 58 hours from Nanaimo with 92 passengers. All well and satisfied with the trip, and the place looks 'quite lively.' What with the miners and a number of Judges of both sexes congregated here from every quarter along the coast, makes quite a stir and a good deal of business. It is estimated that there are one thousand natives here and on the river.

There is a rumor here that gold has been discovered on the North Branch of the Skeena, and many of the men have gone from the Forks in that direction in preference to the Omineca country, but I think this report should be received with caution.

GOLDMINTERS.

"THE WICKED COPYER WHEN NO MAN PURSUETH."—Our contemporary has a habit of measuring other people's corn with his own bushel. Because, on Friday, we gave currency to a legitimate item of news, viz: the seizure of J. W. Keyser's goods on the premises of J. P. Davies, he accuses us of trying to blackmail the last-named individual. Admit the silly accusation to be true, and reverse the rule. Davies does advertise with our contemporary and, consequently, our contemporary says nothing about an occurrence that has been the topic of conversation on every street corner for several days past, simply because it is not his patron's. Apropos of this case. Our contemporary, with a smirk that would have suited Simon Tappertit when admitting his legs, publishes a letter from a respectable firm of solicitors in which it is stated that Davies will surrender all the goods belonging to the bankrupt estate. Unfortunately for our contemporary and his friend, the letter was written on Saturday whilst the order of the Court directing the Sheriff to seize the goods was issued on Friday. So far as our course is concerned, we have spoken of the affair precisely as we would have spoken had the parties implicated been the poorest men in the community; and we shall continue to deal with it in the same manner—nothing extenuating nor setting down ought in malice. Dare our contemporary do likewise.

THE CALIFORNIA, from Portland, arrived at Nanaimo on Sunday night and will leave that place for Sitka this morning.

THE U.S.S. SARDIS, from San Francisco arrived at Port Townsend yesterday at noon.

THE MASONS talk of giving an entertainment on St John's Day.

DR POWELL, of Omaha, is expected to arrive in Victoria on Monday.

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How English Visitors are taken in and Done for at San Francisco.

A California paper narrates how passengers from Australia are victimised at San Francisco. "By the last steamer a certain scion of a royal family in England, arrived and registered himself at the Occidental Hotel. Feeling a little dusty after his journey, he went into a barber shop in the immediate vicinity for the purpose of having himself shaved. The barber, who was a

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