

THE NAVIGATION OF THE SOUND.

The announcement made in our yesterday's issue in reference to the exclusion of our vessels from Puget Sound is naturally exciting much discussion and some little indignation. The order from Washington, prohibiting any but American bottoms going farther on their way to the Sound than Port Angeles is one that cuts both ways, and can only tend to injure American as well as British interests. We alluded cursorily in our local columns yesterday to the injury it is likely to do the lumber trade of the Sound; but it will, in fact, hurt every other branch of industry and commerce in the inland waters of the neighboring territory with the exception, probably, of boat building. Shutting out British ships from the numerous saw-mills on the Sound will simply drive these vessels to seek a lumber cargo on Vancouver Island, and will raise the American freights. So far, then, the new arrangement would give an immense impetus to our lumber trade, and promote the erection of saw-mills in every estuary and bay along the coast. Much however, as we value this trade we do not desire its increase at the expense of another, and we believe, ultimately, more important one—that of boat-building. Between the extravagant liberality of our navigation laws and the intensified illiberality of those of our American neighbors, the growth of this industry has been sufficiently retarded on Vancouver Island. The Puget Sound exclusion mandate will now, however, be its death-blow. No shipowner will think of spending money on a British bottom, when an American-built vessel has nearly every advantage that belongs to a ship under the English flag, besides the very exclusive privileges enjoyed by the mercantile marine of our neighbors across the Straits. If there is one branch of industry more than another to which Vancouver Island is specially adapted, it is ship-building. With ordinary encouragement the Victoria of the future would be the St. John of the Pacific. The recent action, therefore, of the Washington authorities is peculiarly harmful to our prospects in this respect, without, in a corresponding ratio, benefiting the people of the Sound. We know that in the course of time, we shall be able to carry out retaliatory measures, and preclude American shipping from enjoying many of its present privileges in our own waters; but two wrongs cannot make a right, and we have no desire to emulate the narrow-mindedness of the American Government in its shipping regulations. The English navigation laws, which have done so much for their posterity, are not, to foreigners, to injure the shipping trade of the colonies, are, as we have already said, obstacle enough in the way of our boat-building; but when we find the impediment supplemented by the Government at Washington stepping in at this eleventh hour to enforce such rigid regulations as those now in vogue on Puget Sound, we can only say we are peculiarly unfortunate.

Our trade with Puget Sound is becoming one of great and growing importance, and we fondly looked forward to the day when the inhabitants of the neighboring territory would be our most extensive customer. If such obnoxious orders, however, are to be issued from Washington as the one to which we refer, we are afraid we shall have to restrain our sanguine expectations. The only people with whom we have in the matter is the hope of the Sound, who are equally interested in having an unrestricted navigation of their waters, will make every exertion to induce the Federal Government to retract this late unceremonious and injurious order. Against the heavy protective tariff of the States we are not, like the English journals generally, disposed to cavil; because we believe, however much it is hurtful to British manufacturers, it is at least building up those of the Republic; but this recent act has no such plea to recommend it, for it will prove as distasteful to the inhabitants of Washington Territory as it is to ourselves.

A THREE WEEKS' EXPLORATION.—Messrs. Lambert, Begg, Sing and Pince have just returned from a three weeks' prospecting tour in the interior. They started from Harris' at Cowichan, crossed the Shawaniga Lake, and followed the blessed trail of Brown's prospecting party to the head of Sooke Lake. Crossed the head of the Lake and took a south-westerly course along the dividing range of Cedar Flat and Leech river. Prospected along the eastern side of the range for ten miles, and obtained "colors" occasionally, but nothing to pay. The western slope—the more arid country—there they were unable to prospect, on account of one of the party, Sing, having got disabled in the knee, and therefore incapacitated from climbing the very precipitous mountain range. The whole country was enveloped in one mass of flame and smoke, and the dangers to the prospectors were by no means insignificant. They describe the roaring of the conflagration as something terrific; there was not a sign of a living thing along the whole march. The game had all fled or become consumed.

NEW INCORPORATION BILL.—We understand that a new bill for the incorporation of the city is now in course of preparation by the senior city member, assisted by others, and that it will be laid before the House shortly after its opening. The bill contemplates, among other changes, an extension of the city boundaries and an increase in the number of councillors.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.—Major Foster has been gazetted as a justice of the Peace for Vancouver Island.

ANOTHER INDIAN OUTRAGE!

MURDER OF TWO WHITE MEN AND AN INDIAN!

The Sloop Kingsfisher Plundered and Burnt!

A canoe arrived on Thursday night from Nitinat, on the west coast of the Island, bringing intelligence of the murder of Capt. Stevenson, of the sloop Kingsfisher and his crew, consisting of one white man, and a Fort Rupert Indian who was acting as interpreter. It would appear from the statement of these Indians that some of the Achuat and Clayo-quot tribes took possession of the Kingsfisher, and having killed the three men on board, plundered the sloop and then set fire to her.

We fear there is too much truth in this lamentable story, as it was previously supposed that some mishap had befallen this little vessel, nothing having been heard of her for many weeks. Captain Stevenson was well and favorably known in this city. When he sailed on his trading voyage he took with him a quantity of blankets and other goods purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company. It behoves our government to institute prompt enquiries into this matter, and if the outrage has been committed as represented to inflict prompt punishment. The tribes involved have their habitations on the coast, and can, therefore, be reached at all times by a ship of war. It has been for some time the boast of the Indians on the west coast that murders have been committed by their tribes without any attempt at retribution.

THE NEW TRAIL TO LEECH.—From Mairtown to the North Forks of Leech river is now completed, and Culverwell's pack train, which is now increased to twenty-five animals, will start from Thompson's Landing for the Upper Leech on Monday morning. A branch trail from the landing has been cut through, tapping Muir's trail, thus affording one of the readiest ways of reaching the higher portion of Leech river. The new trail is represented to be a very good one, running for the first three or four miles through a fine wooded valley, and then gradually ascending till within half a mile from the Forks, where it is very rough and rocky. Freight will be one bear and a number of deer. The fire which was raging towards the head of Sooke Lake had not yet reached the Kokosiah. The blacksmith has since rejoined his party. Good hopes are entertained of the success of this exploration.

THE GOLD DISCOVERIES ACROSS THE SOUND.—The captain of the sloop Monitor informs us that a party of prospectors who had been out 3 weeks, had just arrived in Port Townsend before he left on Thursday evening. They brought a small quantity of dust with them, and intimated that they had found good diggings about 20 miles from the port. At Port Angeles he also saw a returned exploring party, who had \$1 50 in dust, which they had taken out of a ravine about 14 miles back of the port.

A BAIT FOR ANGLERS.—A gentleman who has just returned from Shawaniga Lake, about twenty-five miles from Victoria, gives the most startling accounts of the number of trout that are waiting impatiently in that beautiful sheet of water to be hauled ashore by the skilful angler. He says the lake is literally alive with them, and that in a few minutes the other morning he caught three large sized and delicious specimens.

THE CASCADES SILVER MINES.—We learn from a party who saw the specimens of silver ore lately found by Mr. H. Winsor of Olympia, that the locality of the discovery is in the vicinity of Mount Begnier, about four days' journey from Olympia. Mr. W. has several large lumps of quartz of which nearly one-third is silver ore, and one-third lead. The extent of the quartz ledges is said to be very large.

FINE GRAIN.—The schooner Winged Racer was discharging yesterday for R. Breidrick a cargo of the finest oats we have seen in this part of the world. The grain was white, plump, and clean, and weighed 42 lbs. to the bushel, and is worth by the cargo 2 to 2 1/2 cents per lb. Yet with such a soil and such prices farmers complain that they cannot make a living!

A MARBLE MOUNTAIN.—A gentleman who had been out prospecting during the last week, showed us yesterday a fine specimen of marble, obtained from the croppings on a mountain not very many miles from Victoria. The extent of this valuable article is almost unlimited, and the spot exceedingly available for wagons. The discoverer will be happy to conduct capitalists to the place.

SOOKE NEWS.—The intelligence received yesterday from Leech river is of the same unvaried though satisfactory nature. Some of the claims are paying large wages while the miners generally appear to be thoroughly satisfied. Much rain had fallen. Goods continue to arrive on the creek, and prices were falling.

CHANGE OF WEATHER.—During the last few days the weather has become overcast and gloomy, and considerable rain has fallen, rendering the atmosphere raw and chilly.

LICENSING COURT.

Friday, Sept. 9, 1864.  
[Before A. F. Pemberton, Thomas Harris, and A. C. Anderson, Esquires, Justices of the Peace.]

ESQUIMAULT LICENSE.  
Mr. Green renewed his application for a license on behalf of Mr. Smith of Esquimault, and produced and read a letter from the Acting Attorney General, stating that pending the settlement of the question of encroachment, for which proceedings had been taken, he saw no reason why Mr. Smith should not reap some benefit from the expenditure which he had incurred. It was to be understood, however, that the Government lent their consent to no more than the temporary license of the building, and that if any person built an expensive brick building closing up the whole of Government street he had a perfect right to come and ask the bench to give him a license and say that the Acting Atty. Genl. had sanctioned it, until proceedings could be taken to dispossess him. He argued that any show of consent on the part of the Government would be construed as an acquiescence when the case came to trial. Mr. Cary went into the whole history of the property and declared that the building was not to be used for the public highway, thus inflicting a public wrong as well as a private injury to his client. The magistrates, he said, would know how to deal with the suggestion thrown out by the Acting Attorney General as to the course they should pursue in this matter. The letter would not be taken into consideration if the bench in its discretion thought fit to grant the license. This was held up as a finger post which the magistrates might follow or not as they pleased. Mr. Cary then proceeded to quote various authorities to show why the license should not be granted.

Mr. Green objected to the name of the court being taken up with quotations which were wholly irrelevant as the bench was not trying the question of ownership of the property, and he could easily show that the building did not encroach.

Mr. Cary (warmly)—I wish you would not interfere with me; you know nothing at all about the case.

Mr. Pemberton said that he thought the bench should hear the law, but Mr. Cary must be prepared to prove all he was asserting.

Mr. Cary—I am prepared to prove every word I have uttered myself and by hundreds of witnesses. I wish your lordship would stop this gentleman from interfering with me.

Mr. Green—But I will interfere when you give occasion to do so. You have been stating what is not the case, and what you cannot prove.

Mr. Cary (warmly)—It is no such thing. You are saying what is false.

Mr. Green—Keep your temper Mr. Cary.

Mr. Cary—The fact is you came here knowing nothing about the case.

Mr. Green—Keep your temper.

Mr. Cary—Do not imagine that you can make me lose my temper.

Mr. Cary went on to quote authorities and show cause why this license should not be granted. The house, he said, was a public nuisance and would certainly have to be removed. He believed that the bench would not inflict such a wrong as to license it.

Mr. Harris, J. P. said he should not take part in the decision of the bench.

Mr. Anderson enquired of Mr. Cary why an interdict had not been applied for when the building was being constructed.

Mr. Cary said that he had only found out the encroachment in the spring when the papers were brought to him, and it was then too late.

Mr. Pemberton said the application now stood differently from what it did before. The bench was at first called upon to consider a question of encroachment, and under those circumstances, they did not think it right to grant the license, but this disputed question had been properly taken out of their hands, and the Acting Attorney General did not appear to object on behalf of the crown.

Mr. Cary—The Crown is only the people, I object on behalf of one of the people.

Mr. Pemberton—We are aware of that, but we do not think, under the circumstances, that it would not be becoming in us to withhold the license any longer. The application is accordingly granted.

THE "JOHN BULL."  
Mr. Harris made his sixth application for a license of the above building, and stated the circumstances of the case and the hardships to which he had been subjected.

After some deliberation, Mr. Pemberton stated that the majority of the bench were in favor, under the circumstances, of making this an exceptional case, and granting the license. For his own part, he saw no reason on principle why the rule which had been laid down should be altered, as it opened the door to fraud. The licenses were granted for one year, and it was not fair to others to allow persons to intervene and not pay for their licenses. He had no personal feeling in the matter, and as the majority had decided in favor of Mr. Harris, he would only say that he was glad of it for his (Mr. Harris') sake.

JOHNSON STREET.  
Mr. Copland, on behalf of Mr. Neil Morrison, asked for a transfer of license of the premises on Johnson street, from Mr. Thomas Burns, the present holder of the license, Application granted.

GOVERNMENT STREET.  
Mr. Drake applied, on behalf of Mr. McNiff, for a license next door to Mr. Sandri's fruit store, on Government street, but the bench held that the application must be made at the regular licensing day.

Court adjourned to first Thursday in October.

From the Sooke Mines.

ANOTHER NUGGET.  
One of the members of the Albemarle Company, who arrived last night from Leech river, has shown us a splendid nugget intermingled with quartz, about the size of a small hen egg, and containing about two ounces of gold and 1/2 of an ounce of quartz. This beautiful nugget was found by our informant lying under a boulder on the Albemarle claim, and must evidently have been washed from the hills. The company have been busily occupied building a house and making preparations for work. They only commenced sluicing to-day. Two men have been washing with a rocker for about a week averaging about an ounce per day to the man. The company intend making a search for quartz ledges in the hills.

THE SCANDINAVIAN Co are averaging about eight ounces per day with sluices. There are only three members in this company.

THE MOUNTAIN ROSE are washing out from four to five ounces a day.

THE AVALANCHE Co. are sawing lumber for sluices.

THE FREDERICK'S BAR Co. are taking out good pay.

Those companies who are working seem to be quite satisfied.

Much rain has fallen during the last day or two on the creek.

A bear made his appearance on Tuesday afternoon, and was shot by a man named Hunt with a revolver. Bruin weighed 300 pounds.

The store-keepers appear to be doing well on the creek, and prices of provisions, &c., have fallen.

SOOKE MINING NEWS.  
Mr. J. Shetterlee, of the Wake-up-Jake claim, who arrived yesterday from Sooke, having left Leech river in the morning, has placed us in possession of the following news:—The Wake-up-Jake Co. cleaned up on Friday, after three-quarters of a day's work, and took out five ounces and three quarters. In two weeks the shareholders received a dividend of \$127 each. The same company of twelve men have washed out since they first commenced, \$1745. They have now jumped an unoccupied claim on the opposite side, which they consider equally as good as the old one and on Monday they will make another dam to work high up. A man named Cooper, who was 100 ill to work, sold his share in the Wake-up-Jake, to a Boise miner, for \$750, which he thought cheap. Mr. Shetterlee has in his possession about \$114 of splendid nuggets of various sizes, from \$1 to \$45.

THE WILLIAMSON Co. are doing well, and taking out good pay. A nugget of \$25 was found on Friday, (not \$100 as has been stated.)

HOWARD & Co. and Ross & Co. are making good flames, and will soon be ready to go to work.

The miners on the Creek are generally in good spirits.

Mr. Shetterlee says that about 60 Californians passed up the creek last week, and were shown some of the dust and nuggets taken out, which pleased them much; they saw that there must be plenty more where that came from, and they would not return without finding it.

Beef is selling on the creek for 25 cents per pound for best cuts; Veal, 12 1/2 cents; Flour, \$5 25 to \$5 50 per sack; Bacon, 30 cents. Most articles required by the miners can now be purchased at the stores on the creek at very moderate prices.

Mr. Phil Hall is just completing an excellent house of accommodation at Loon Lake, which will be a great convenience to travellers.

FROM JORDAN RIVER.  
Mr. Stephen Wallace who returned yesterday by the Caledonia, formed one of a party of seven who ascended the Jordan river a distance up of from eighteen to twenty miles. The party left Victoria in a canoe about eighteen days ago. The river is a little larger than Sooke river, but not navigable for any craft, being rocky and full of canons, the stream in some places runs very strong. The country near the mouth is very fertile, and for about nine miles the ascent is exceedingly tedious and difficult. The travelling being much rougher than on Sooke or Leech river. The bed of the river from nine miles up, to highest points they reached became much easier travelling. The party prospected all the way up for seven days and found the color everywhere, but no paying diggings. A party of six crossed over from Leech river and struck the headwaters of Jordan river, but did not report finding any gold.

Mr. Wallace and his party prospected several of the creeks emptying into Jordan, but only found the color and he does not consider that any diggings worth the labor of working exist in that locality.

The country up the river resembles that on Leech river. There is abundance of splendid timber, mostly spruce, cedar and hemlock. Wolves are numerous. They did not see any open land although those who crossed over said that they saw a large tract of flat country suitable for farming at the headwaters. The course of the river is north-east but it winds very much.

MORE COAL DISCOVERIES.—Mr. Robinson, Mining Engineer and formerly Superintendent of the coal mines at Nanaimo, and two others, having recently discovered a valuable seam of coal in the neighborhood of Nootka Sound, have applied to the Government for a grant of a lease for the same, and as they appear to have complied with the terms of the Governor's proclamation of June 11th, relative to such matters, we understand their claim has been granted. The seam is said to be about 8 feet thick and the quality is represented to be superior to any yet found on the island. The largest ship in the navy can lie in safety within 20 yards of the seam in a fine capacious and well sheltered harbor.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Upon the day after that on which our last monthly summary was published (says the Sydney Herald, of May 21), Parliament was prorogued by His Excellency Sir John Young, having been in session since June last.

The Sydney papers contain long reports of the trial of a very notorious bushranger named Gardner, who was captured in Queensland some time since. He was acquitted, amid the hearty cheering of the bystanders. A correspondent says—"You must infer nothing against the Sydney population from this, for the ruffian being at once brave and liberal (at other people's expense) and gentle to women, he is popular, of course. This hero of the dock has, however, many other charges hanging over him, and he will be lucky indeed if he escapes them all."

Victoria.  
The third Parliament of Victoria, and the first which has died a natural death, was to be dissolved on May 27. The transportation question continued to occupy public attention. Mr. Kye had submitted his motion to the Parliament, proposing a vote to defray the passage-money of a certain number of expatriates annually from the colony to the mother country. The proposition was withdrawn, but not before it had evoked a strong expression of feeling against the continuance of transportation to any portion of Australia.

The motion for the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in Victoria has been carried in the House of Assembly; so that, in a very short time, we shall be in a position to manufacture our own coin.

The salmon acclimatising experiment proceeds successfully. Over a hundred of the spawns have come to life in the iced water cans at the Ice Company's works, North Melbourne; and at the latest dates from Hobart Town all was going well with both the salmon and trout ova in the ponds of the river Plenty.

A well-known character in Melbourne, named George Millar, who lived in great style, and who was believed to be very well off, had decapitated, having victimised those with whom he was accustomed to do business to the extent of something like \$50,000. It was feared that he had sailed for California. The police, were, however, on his track.

South Australia.  
The Gazette contains a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Government for the three months, and also for the 12 months ended March 31st last. Putting together all sources of public income the revenue for the three months was £194,524, against £131,670 of the corresponding quarter of the year before; and for the 12 months, £694,545, against £561,030, showing an increase of £232,844 on the quarter, and £133,514 on the year.

Queensland.  
Parliament opened on the 26th of April with a speech from the Governor, Sir George Bowen.

The Courier says—"We are happy to be able to state that the cotton plantations have not been damaged by the wet weather as was at first expected they would be. The sugar crops have sorely suffered at all, and many persons are expressing a desire to employ capital in the cultivation of the cane. Hitherto the experiment has been tried by a few only, who have, as it were, acted as pioneers for the more timid portion of the community."

CITY COUNCIL.  
Thursday Evening, Sept. 8.  
A special meeting of the City Council was held last evening in pursuance of notice published in the Colonist. Present, His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors Strocach, McDonald, Wallace, Ewing and Banting.

THE JOHNSON STREET ENCROACHMENT.  
The following report was read by the Clerk:  
The committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency Governor Kennedy, relative to encroachments on the water front at the foot of Johnson street, and also with reference to the general state of Corporation affairs, beg leave to report that they waited upon His Excellency and were most courteously received.

His Excellency assured the Committee that if the Parliament, about to be convened, continued in session long enough, he would leave to report that the bill was introduced, and at all events he would have a bill introduced to become law before November.

Your committee are of opinion that a communication should be addressed to His Excellency, stating that the Council are present in a position to commence a suit for the recovery of the property at the foot of Johnson street, and requesting the government to take such steps as it may deem best to secure the same for the benefit of the city.

Upon motion of Mr. Wallace the report was adopted.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Strocach and passed:  
That a communication be addressed to His Excellency stating that under present circumstances the corporation are not in a position to take any active measures for the recovery of the water front at the foot of Johnson street, and inasmuch as the Council consider the same of great public importance, they respectfully pray that His Excellency will cause such steps as he may deem best to be taken in order to secure the public land at the foot of Johnson street for the benefit of the city.

Council adjourned to the usual hour on Monday evening.

THE SHIPPING EMBARGO ON THE SOUND.—Our statement yesterday to the effect that British vessels were to be prohibited from going up the Sound above Port Angeles, proves to be correct. By last steamer U. S. Collector Gann received an official despatch from the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington informing him that the laws of the United States prohibited all foreign bottoms from ascending or navigating any inland waters above the port of entry. The act referred to does not appear among the already published U. S. statutes, and it is therefore probably a clause of the new act passed during the session of Congress just closed, and entitled "An Act for the regulation of the coasting trade on the north-eastern, western, and north-western coasts of the United States, and for other purposes."

THE VOTER'S SECURITY.

In our Saturday's issue, we alluded to difficulties under which Vancouver Island labored, through its want in the way of "representative men." We do not term exactly in the Emersonian sense, simply to convey the idea of the unrepresentative character of the members of the legislature. We wish now to discuss a principle which should be laid in place somewhat against this evil first place, we know that in a small territory the probability of obtaining electors is infinitely less than in a large one; and at the same time, that the electors are much less complex in the former, and that it may be considered a general rule that every community of attending to its own wants may, however, be artificial obstacles, by which the voice of the whole cannot be heard, and when this is the case we may also put down as a rule, that the interests of the community are either entirely or willfully ignored. In Vancouver Island we have, unfortunately, the latter case, which stands between the government and the people. The old Hudson's Bay House of Assembly of 1859, decided wisdom, that no man should hold a seat in the House who did not possess a property to the value of £3 clause worked admirably; for the men who held land to that amount, and who were connected with the public, and the consequence was a general election we had a very Hudson's Bay Company House of Assembly, no degree influenced by the vulgar against the fair trading body. It is now to show what that House, studied supineness, has cost the present condition of the Lands is one of its profits. Power is sweet, and so, although landed proprietors gradually to the Assembly, they were expected to guard against opening wider the door, lest the range of public being thus extended, would be the next election it that position more congenial to their general well as public interest. It was a selfish view which created the obnoxious qualification clause been inserted to guard against "penniless adventurers" who had no interest in the country, much we might laugh at the supposing that such a class could be the suffrages of the voters, we the members on the ground of of human nature as well as of but it was for no such reason that was introduced, else he would have been as much eligibility as a piece of land.

It was to circumvent the choice votes, and the result has proved to be the method. Through this to-day compelled to accept a qualified person who has presided to offer himself. Men who what legislation meant, come modestly solicit the people's legislators. It is not very many of the present members of a gentleman who, we are glad to better conversant with matters had the candor to acknowledge at the hustings that "he really about politics;" but that was not the case, and he was returned, and His Excellency himself again face to face with unpopular and dangerous.

This and other evils that in our opinion will, in the course of exist; but in the interim we most practicable method for representative body, as near the echo of the popular voice, and where the rate is extensive, the representative wide latitude in his legislation not supposed to merely represent his constituents; but in the to act, according to his own generally conceived ideas be. What else and his brother mist, that the representative wisest man in the community, in an ordinary case, to give an opinion. It is easy to say that the conclusion here; because the premises correct. Our representative "smartest persons in the consequently should not be in their legislative duties, inexperienced men in law, men acquainted with the requirements of the country,