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NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

Westminster's Preparations to Receive the Visiting Ministers—Mining on the Mainland.

Second Washup of the Cariboo—Happenings at Vancouver and Nanaimo.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER.

Vancouver, Oct. 25.—Robert Stevenson, of Granite Creek, has presented a handsome pair of eagles, natives of the province, to the Vancouver park commissioners.

A farewell meeting was given to Ensign Cowan and Captain Zeilbarth at the Salvation Army barracks last evening. The Army officers are going to Butte, Montana, to fill similar positions on the Salvation Army staff there.

The urchins of Vancouver are practicing illustrating the antipathy of many of their elders at the sight of a Chinaman. Hardly a day passes without some complaint being made of Chinamen being assaulted by boys with sticks and stones and other weapons. So far the police have not interfered.

Mr. McKinnon, president of the Golden Cache company, left for Europe yesterday on business. Mr. McKinnon takes with him some fine specimens of ore from the Golden Cache group for exhibition at the Imperial Institute. Mr. McKinnon informed a Colonist reporter that the Imperial Institute exhibit of British Columbia ores was not what it should be, and that some steps should be taken to improve it.

On Friday the Golden Cache mines stock made a sharp advance of 25 cents and is now transferred at \$1.25 per share. Some few months ago the Golden Cache stock was first issued at 25 cents and has steadily advanced from that date owing to actual results obtained from development work. Forty-five thousand shares of the Golden Cache were purchased last week by Messrs. Goodenham and Blackstock of Toronto, at \$1 a share.

Vancouver, Oct. 27.—Quartz from the Bondholder mine is creating considerable interest in the city. The ore looks very rich in silver. There was considerable demand for shares yesterday at 10 cents.

Golden Cache shares were transferred yesterday by private sale at \$1.20, while several hundred shares brought \$1.18 at Rankin's auction room last night.

The excitement still continues over the marvellously rich ore taken from the Lordeale on Texada Island. A large number of shares have been sold on the curbstone at 50 cents a share.

There was a good demand for Channe Mine Co. shares on Monday and to-day at Westminster and Vancouver. The stock changed hands at 20 cents.

J. H. Clements, the mining expert, left for London, England, yesterday.

A sailor who attempted to desert from the Norwegian steamer Tyr is in the hands of the police.

Early next month the Vancouver Operative and Productive Society will commence their rehearsals with a view of producing the "Chimes of Normandy."

There are some sixteen applications for the position of chief of police for Vancouver. They are from Toronto, Brockville, Winnipeg, Brandon, Calgary, Kamloops and Vancouver. Ex-Chief McLaren and Ex-Chief Stewart are amongst the applicants.

In the case of Augustus Augustus, the dead body was found floating near Point Grey on Saturday, the coroner's jury has returned a verdict of accidental drowning. Augustus went duck shooting with some companions. They landed the duck and when they looked for him again he was nowhere to be found. The fog became very dense and rendered the labors of the searching party far more difficult. Evidently Augustus had been drifting, but was caught by the rising tide, and had found it impossible to make the shore. When discovered the body had no coat or boots upon it, which gives color to this theory.

Numerous objections are being raised to wooden sheds, etc., built within the fire limits, and it is thought the council will have to take some action to satisfy the public. Owners of many of the unsanitary buildings on Dupont and other streets complained of by the health committee are complying with the law.

A by-law has been passed amending the pound-by-law, which will authorize the poundkeeper to sell stray cattle and three days after being impounded, provided fines are paid.

The cow byes by-law will not come in operation until June, when owners of cows will have to provide better accommodation for their animals.

The yacht club met last night and appointed Messrs. Gravelly, R. Ellis, Robinson and McNab to draft a constitution and by-laws.

D. M. McKenzie returned yesterday after an extended prospecting trip in the Kootenay country. Mr. McKenzie recorded what he thinks to be several good claims.

Mr. Colquhoun has returned from the north, where he has been prospecting for an English syndicate. He reports that he was very successful in locating some good properties.

Ald. Shaw has returned from a long visit to the Kootenay country. He has brought home with him several high grade samples of ore from Salmon river and Bear creek, taken from properties he has recently acquired.

WESTMINSTER.

New Westminster, Oct. 25.—Mr. Shack was in the city yesterday in connection with the Automatic Can Co. Mr. Shack will be in Westminster with the machinery for the factory in about six weeks.

It is reported that the A.B.C. Packing Co. intend putting up another cannery on the Fraser river.

At the meeting of those interested in the fishing industry on the Fraser river the following resolutions were passed:

That the necessary steps be taken to prevent the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the matter of the closer season between the sockeye and coho seasons, with a view to obtaining permission to fish during the time now observed as a close season; that the following gentlemen be a committee to arrange for the reception of and to interview Hon. L. H. Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries: Messrs. Stead, Sangnetti, F.

ton, Erickson, Rice, Robinson and Broderick.

On the suggestion of Mr. G. Adams a subscription list was opened to defray expenses in connection with the visit of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Mr. Adams contributing \$5 as a commencement.

WESTMINSTER, Oct. 27.—Prospectors filled the mining recorder's office all day yesterday recording claims, located in the Pitt Lake and other districts.

The salmon run was very poor on Sunday night. Instructions have been received from Ottawa by Inspector McNab to the effect that fishing for steelheads may commence this year on November 1, and that nets with six and three-quarter inches mesh may be used. The size of the mesh has been reduced on the recommendation of Mr. McNab.

Taking into consideration the very poor run of cohoes this season, the fishermen are particularly well pleased at the decision of the government to permit steelhead fishing with smaller mesh nets two weeks before the usual time.

Mr. Aulay Morrison, M.P., returned from Ottawa yesterday.

Mrs. Hughes has loaned her valuable exhibit of Indian curios to the free library. The exhibit was collected by the late J. C. Hughes, naturalist and archaeologist.

Mr. McGillivray, of Vancouver, has secured the contract for building the wharf, etc., of the projected automatic can company.

NANAIMO.

Nanaimo, Oct. 26.—Harry Shaw shot a monster black bear on Englishman's river a few days ago. It measured 7 feet 4½ inches, and was one of the largest shot in this district during recent years.

C. S. Nicol, manager of the New Vancouver Coal Company in the early sixties, and now a resident of Nicaragua, is in the city. He will remain a few days as the guest of Mr. Samuel M. Robins, superintendent of the New Vancouver Coal Company.

The ledge on which J. Mahrer has made his rich find of free milling gold quartz is said to be the one worked some years ago by Mr. Hugh Kirk. The ledge runs from a flat plateau up the side of a hill, and Mr. Kirk drove in at the bottom of the hill and at considerable intervals along the edge upward, making some good strikes. The vein was, however, never opened up below the surface of the level ground or between the few diggings made by Mr. Kirk, and these Mr. Mahrer intends to open up thoroughly.

Mr. Mahrer returned from Vancouver on Saturday night, having disposed of the full 3,000 shares in the Lordeale company of Texada in that city. He left his specimens at the Terminal City for a few days.

NANAIMO, Oct. 27.—Five mineral locations, all situated on Shaw creek, about ten miles north of Cowichan lake, were made by people from Duncan at the government office to-day.

Ex-Mayor Quennell underwent an operation on his broken leg yesterday afternoon, and the doctors feel confident of its success.

Word was received by the Willapa yesterday that John Moreau, of this city, who recently lost an arm and had the other broken in two places and badly crushed by an explosion of gunpowder near Juncos, Alaska, was past his sufferings and is recovering much more rapidly than was expected. He is lying in the hospital at Juncos, being nursed by his wife.

NEW DENVER.

(From the Ledger.)

The C. & K. S. N. company will have another large boat finished by March, which will be larger than any boat that has yet ploughed the Columbia.

The Idler, near Three Forks, has been stocked for a million, and a portion of the stock offered at 7½ cents. The company state that with transportation near at hand, the ore should average \$500 to \$1,000 per ton.

Eight hundred and fifty dollars have been raised by private subscription for the sleigh road between New Denver and Silverton.

DUNCAN.

DUNCAN, Oct. 26.—The Vancouver Island Flock Masters' Association held their fourth annual dinner at the Quanchan hotel, Duncan, on Saturday night last, Captain Barkley, president, in the chair. Reeve T. A. Wood, Messrs. T. R. McInnes, M.P.; Major Mutter, M.P.; Mr. J. R. Anderson, deputy minister of agriculture, and about sixty farmers and residents were present and did ample justice to the excellent catering of mine host Mr. C. H. Dickie.

After the toast of "The Queen" had been proposed by the chairman, Mr. Dickie, in reply to the toast of the department of agriculture recommended the location of three experimental farms for the province—one for the upper and one for the lower Mainland, and the third on the island. After noting the importance of the sheep industry and its value in fertilizing the land and clearing pests from the orchard, he pointed out that at the late Spokane exhibition Cowichan fruit exhibited by him obtained a special award of \$25 for British Columbia.

The president's (Captain Barkley) and secretary's health (Mr. T. A. Wood) were heartily received, and the former urged most urgently in favor of an increase of the panther bounty to \$10, to be paid whether killed in a set trap or not, and also for more power for the farmer in the matter of destroying stray dogs.

The banquet was enlivened by numerous well rendered songs as under: "When the Bloom is on the River," A. S. Drummond; "Flannigan McCarthy," G. Mellin; "The Bold Ramblers," H. E.

Evans; song, Mr. R. Musgrave; "The Black Flag," Wm. Beaumont; "Island Lamb," J. Norcross; "The Sunshine of Paradise Alley," H. B. Greaves; song, H. H. W. Mayo; "Sailor-man Charlie," C. C. Hoadley; "The Happy Family," W. C. Joyce; "The Shamrock of Ireland," W. Morley; song, A. S. Drummond; "A Happy Minstrel Boy," Wm. Beaumont; "Do You Ken John Peel," John C. Dwyer; "Son of a Gambler," R. Musgrave; "Jack and Jill," J. Norcross; "A Novel Idea," W. P. Joyce; "People Will Talk," T. A. Wood; "The Powder Monkey," H. B. Greaves; song, H. De M. Mellin.

ASHCROFT.

(From the B.C. Mining Journal.)

Wm. Brash and J. R. Mitchell recently went up to the Bonaparte—about sixteen miles. Mr. Mitchell will erect some buildings there for the men and works there.

John Leitch, superintendent of the Cinnabar mine, passed through Ashcroft Sunday night, on his way to Savona from San Francisco, where he was looking after new machinery.

The second washup of the Cariboo-Cronic mine this week amounted to about \$38,000. They are still piling on No. 1 shaft, and will probably have another washup this fall. The two washups from this mine for the season come to \$120,000.

On Wednesday last a party belonging to the 43rd Mining and Milling Co., of Omineca, arrived in Ashcroft. They report a splendid season's work and fully expect to have taken on some of their claims during the working season of '97. A great revival of hydraulic mining is an assured fact. The 43rd company are better satisfied than ever with their prospects. This company owns fifteen claims on Slate creek, of the choicest auriferous gravel, the face being about 35 to 100 feet and running in shelves or terraces 1,500 feet from the working point. The gravel is exceedingly easy of manipulation. Next season the Valleeau will go in about March with a party on snowshoes by way of the Naas river, and Col. Wright will go in by Ashcroft considerably lower than he did this year.

ROSSLAND.

(From the Rossland Mining Review.)

F. A. Heinze is reported to be buying lead ores in the Slocan with a view of treating them in Trail.

The April Fool and other claims on the south belt have been purchased by Mr. Henry Croft, representing Victoria parties.

Some ore taken from the raise in the Mugwump assayed high enough in gold with its copper valuation to make it of shipping grade.

A fine sample of Deer Park ore, assayed of purity, gave \$900 per ton, and 61.5 ounces of silver to the ton.

The north vein of the Le Roi has been discovered on the surface of the West Le Roi and Josie, about 90 feet west of the old workings. It is about nine feet wide, strongly mineralized and carries plentiful indications of copper.

The Josie has a magnificent face of ore in its lowest drift, which samples \$75 to the ton and the whole face of the drift is in ore. The Josie company has made a contract with the Trail smelter for part of its output.

(From the Rossland Record.)

The Giant on Red Mountain has, it is said, been sold to Tacoma parties for one hundred thousand dollars.

Charles Frey has just returned from Heather Bay, where he has been prospecting in the Fraser valley, where he located the El Capitan, Charleston and Rabbit's Paw.

PORT LANGLEY.

LANGLEY, Oct. 24.—Building operations continue to be brisk, nearly 100,000 feet of lumber having been shipped from the port since the first of the month.

Hay and grain, in addition to other descriptions of farm produce, are being brought down for shipment, and a returning lumber scow takes back to the Royal City some thirty tons, as well as that daily brought down by the river steamers.

PORT HAMMOND.

PORT HAMMOND, Oct. 24.—A meeting of the local Fruit Growers' Association is to be held shortly to discuss matters in connection with the quarterly meeting of the B.C. Fruit Exchange.

The commissioners of the Maple Ridge dyking scheme have taken hold of the question, and it is understood tenders will shortly be called for.

Thrashing has been going merrily along on the Pitt Meadows, and when the dykes have been raised sufficiently the question, and it is understood tenders will shortly be called for.

Chicago, Oct. 26.—The Pacific Elevator Co. lost by fire to-day their elevator, "A" and "B," containing 1,100,000 bushels of wheat stored there.

P. J. Perry, the superintendent, said would entail a loss of at least a million and a half dollars. The insurance is said to be about \$750,000. Several other buildings were in imminent danger, but were finally saved after a hard fight.

Major Mutter, M.P., acknowledging the toast of "The Provincial Parliament," said he agreed with Mr. McInnes in his advocacy of the advisability of having an experimental farm on the island, and thought Cowichan district a suitable position for the farm.

The president's (Captain Barkley) and secretary's health (Mr. T. A. Wood) were heartily received, and the former urged most urgently in favor of an increase of the panther bounty to \$10, to be paid whether killed in a set trap or not, and also for more power for the farmer in the matter of destroying stray dogs.

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STILL DECREASING.

The Sealskin Catch of 1896 Shows a Considerable Drop From Last Year.

From All Sources the B. C. Supply Will Not Reach Sixty Thousand.

Of the 64 vessels forming the British Columbia fleet that went this year to the sealing, all save two or three have now returned to port, and the catches of these tarry ones being carefully approximated, it is found that the seal catch of 1896 will not total even 60,000 skins, while last year—regarded by all as a most unsatisfactory season—produced 74,124 skins, a drop from 94,474 the year previous. Dividing this year's catch proportionately among the 64 vessels of this season's fleet, with their 800 whites and 1,118 Indian hunters, it would just about meet the cost of outfitting and wages, leaving nothing for the shipowners who have invested their capital in this much-harassed and once-profitable Pacific coast industry. The loss of two of the British Columbia schooners and the seizure of three others are auxiliary unpleasant incidents of the season now at a close. The work of the sealers individually is shown in the table appended:

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