

ing kases on the Fraser. The whole prospectus is vague, and far from reassuring, and there are evidently big promotion profits behind an undertaking of a very doubtful nature as regards chances of success, dredging having, up to date, failed badly on the Fraser. It is to be hoped, though information is not yet to hand, that the effort to float this company failed. There is a plentiful lack of assurance to the investing public about its prospectus, though a cable despatch quoted therein states that somewhere on the Fraser, somebody named Beattie recently cleaned up, by dredging, \$2,000 in three weeks, using a small plant. Mr. Beattie's somewhat surprising success under the circumstances seems to have attracted but little notice in British Columbia, where such news of a gold dredging achievement would be welcomed, in the case particularly of such a river as the Fraser, in which previous attempts have proved so singularly abortive, as a general rule, save in the case of operations on a small scale, on specially favorable small deposits.

A despatch to the Victoria "Times" from San Francisco says:

"Passengers who arrived this morning on the steamer City of Sydney declare that the buried treasure of Cocos Island has been discovered, and that one of their number knows where it is. This man is Augustus Whidden, partner of A. Gissler, who left this port in the sloop Haysued about five years ago, in search of the wealth."

As will be remembered, when the schooner, on which the expedition commanded by Captain Fred. Hackett sailed from Cocos Island to return to Victoria, after an unsuccessful search for the buried treasure, Captain Augustus Whidden, the passenger referred to in the despatch, in company with A. Livingstone, another Victoria sailing man, remained behind. When the flagship Imperieuse returned, last Wednesday, after unsuccessfully searching for the treasure, she brought news that Whidden had left the Island, and had gone to Punta Arenas with Gissler, while Livingstone was still on the Island. Notwithstanding that Charles Harford, who came to Victoria on the schooner Aurora, and who claims to have discovered the treasure, says that Captain Whidden could not find the treasure, there are many who are of the opinion that he has. Among these are many on board the Imperieuse. They say that when the party sent ashore by the flagship, under Lieut. Lee, had dug according to directions, they located a slab of slate, which showed evidences of having been moved before their arrival. They could not raise the slab, or even get down to it, owing to the rainy season, the hole as fast as it was

evacuated, filling with water. For two days this party worked, and then they were recalled by the Admiral, and the ship left. In order that the location of the treasure—for they believed they had located it—should not be known to the residents of the island, it is said they were detained on the flagship until the work was over, and the traces of the digging obliterated.

Harford was taken back on the warship to San Jose de Guatemala, where he was left, and the warship proceeded to Victoria. H. M. S. Amphion was met and ordered down to Guatemala, and, it is said by officers of the Imperieuse, she was to go from there to the island to continue the search, taking Harford down from San Jose de Guatemala, to direct the operations.

When Harford came to Victoria, in August last, and told the story of his discovery, he described many strange adventures with Gissler, who, he says, is his mortal enemy. It was for fear of death at the hands of this man, he said, that he refrained from digging up the thirty million dollars' worth of gold, silver and precious stones. He also told of a faithful negro servant who had aided him against Gissler, and who also knew of the location of the treasure. When asked if this negro would not reveal the location of the wealth, Harford said he was not in the least afraid of that, as nothing could induce the negro to work against the interests of his employer. According to the story told by the officers of the Imperieuse, however, this negro had gone in a sloop to the mainland, in company with Captain Whidden and Gissler. The other residents of the island, the two German men and two German women, said they had gone for provisions, but no one had seen the departure of the sloop, and no one could say whether or not they had found the hidden wealth and carried it away, or whether Gissler went back to the Island is not known. In all probability he returned, for he had left his wife there. Certain it is that Whidden did not go back.

Gissler, who is mentioned in the despatch, is Captain Gissler, a German, who left Stockton, Cal., about five years ago, to search for the treasure. He has, since then, been searching and raising coffee on the island.

The arrival of Captain Whidden in Victoria will be awaited with great interest, for if, as is generally supposed, he has located the immense treasure, he will be a British Columbian copy of the Count of Monte Cristo. The warship will in the meantime search, as did the flagship, unsuccessfully.

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England and Wales are not usually regarded as gold and silver producing countries. Some gold is, however, got from mid-Wales, and the total output comes to about £13,160, or \$84,000 a year, at present. Some little silver is also gotten from lead ores in England and Wales, and it is just stated that a ledge of galena, rich in silver, has been discovered seven feet below the surface of a public building at Liskeard, in Cornwall, a county wherein, during the past, silver has been gotten in connection with lead mining, but only as a bye-product.

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