

Captain Richards, R. N., considered, yet I think this could be surmounted; but still for a pack trail this would be immaterial. The route along the banks of the Quall-e-hum River is very bad. Captain Mayne, R. N., crossed the island to the south of our present track and north of our route from Nanaimo to Barclay Sound, and considered that a route was practicable in that direction; but I question whether the advantage arising from avoiding the ridge would counterbalance the disadvantages of the much greater extent of road, and the more wooded character of the country. The trail from Victoria to Comox crosses the Quall-e-hum River close to the coast, and an extension of this would form a transinsular road connecting the civilization of the east with the barbarism of the west coast; the coal miners of Nanaimo and the farmers of Comox with the wild savage of Nootka, Klay-o-qualit and Barclay Sounds. As it is, it is frequently crossed by millmen from Alberni in a day and a half to Quall-e-hum, from whence, by the Government trail to Nanaimo, the distance is between thirty and thirty-five miles.

We found two camps of the warlike Euc-lat-aws camped on the Quall-e-hum, and it was with difficulty that we rescued from their hands an Opichesah hunter, who had accompanied us as guide. This territory, at one time belonging to the Qualle-hums, who are now extinct as a separate tribe, and their lands divided between the Euclataws and the Comoues, (or Sath-luths-) whom we found camped further down the coast, on the site of their old village of Saa-tlaam or Saat-help, ("the place of the green leaves"). I hired a large canoe from the Chief of the Euclataws to take us to Nanaimo, where we arrived on the 19th, and reported myself to W. H. Franklyn, Esq., J. P., Chairman of the Branch Committee.

On the 20th, we left on board Her Majesty's Gunboat "Grappler," and arrived in Victoria on the 21st of October, 1864.

At the same time, I beg to present for your satisfaction the detailed accounts of the Expedition, and of the funds intrusted to me from the commencement to the close of the Expedition, with maps and sketches of the whole route, and objects of interest. The great difficulty of conveying anything prevented us to our deep regret making a large collection of minerals, or other objects of Natural History, but such as we have been able to preserve, I beg to lay before you.

Such, gentlemen, is a short, and I fear a somewhat imperfect account of the labours of the Expedition. The short period since our arrival, and the almost constant engagement of my time, must be my excuse for not, at this period, presenting to you a less concise document, but I trust that you will allow me when I have had time to systematise and revise and extend my notes, to lay before you