

The Fire at Metlakathla

Particulars Furnished by Bishop Ridley Who Returned on the Tees.

The Loss Some Four Thousand Dollars Greater Than Was Estimated.

Bishop Ridley, who returned from the North on the steamer Tees, has furnished the Colonist with the following details of the fire which wiped out the mission buildings at Metlakathla on Board the Tees, Aug. 2, 1901.

To the Editor of the Colonist: Dear Sir: The loss by fire at Metlakathla is greater by \$4,000 than the estimate I gave you on the 2nd of July.

The following buildings were destroyed: The Home for Half-breeds and White Children; a few mattresses saved.

The old workshop; nothing saved but the anvil and some tools. The boat houses (called by some the cannery), containing six boats and two canoes; nothing saved.

The Bishop's house; one desk saved. The insurance adjuster valued the contents of the house at \$15,700; insurance, \$2,000.

The church; a harmonium and a memorial desk saved. The Indian Girls' Home; nothing saved.

The school house; quite recently used as a store and stocked with stores of food for six months, new clothing and other stores; nothing saved.

The public day school for Indians; nothing saved.

The church armory hall; nothing saved. The old prison, used since 1857 as a coal house for the schools; many tons of coal burnt up.

The new workshop belonging to the Boys' Industrial Home; nothing saved. The boys' main building was saved though damaged. It was the only building insured.

The value of the buildings destroyed and their contents is estimated at \$44,000. The value of the property saved from the children's homes, \$250, and from the church, \$280.

The fire broke out during the holidays, so that the majority of the children were absent from the school. The fire started after the fire many Indians left their fishing on the Skeena, and not only fetched away their own, but true to Indian hospitality, took many others to nourish them until we can provide shelter for them.

The nineteen remaining with the lady missionaries in charge of the school, and the children, were immediately wanted were met by kindness shown on the spot. The stores I took up with me, and provided by the beautiful prompt liberality of kind hearts in Victoria, will tide me over until the future. Great was the gratitude of the ladies when told of this great sympathy from the Capital and Vancouver.

It would be curious to know how many of the children were in the school when I found they were absent. The children were in the same case. A great deal of clothing and other effects had been rescued from the school, but a change of mind caused it to be burnt up.

The three men that at Metlakathla, by using the fire engine, saved the main building of the school, and the school and ran great risks in so doing.

The ladies fought the fire bravely and skilfully, but were driven back continually. Miss Edwards told me they poured water over the other side of the street, and were set on fire, but though wet through they soon were again dried by the great heat.

Miss West was overcome by the smoke on the stairs, and was dragged into the open by two Indian women, who accidentally came across her in an unseasonable condition as soon as recovered she again fought on.

Though so much was burnt their intelligent method of fighting the fire kept it from reaching the principal part of the town.

Miss Davies saw that the raised viaduct of wood between the wharf and the town hall was burning towards the latter, and that if it reached the wharf, the side of the town would be destroyed; so she called the other ladies from the buildings they could not save, and with axes and levers they cut a narrow section of the roadway at immense pains, and so saved the town. It was a brave and skilful deed, deserving great credit.

The disaster being so great and lamentable. The fire area is about a quarter of a mile long from Mr. Keen's house to the main building of the Boys' school. Two Indian houses are burnt. The width of the burnt area is about 500 feet.

We want help now to provide for the children. I ask for help in this and nothing else of the kind here in this province. The Indians with their missionaries in the employ of the Church Missionary Society built the two former churches, and they build the third more commodiously, if less vast. No doubt they would be gratified for help from this province, but are not likely to ask for help from the outside world with modesty I do not share, because I am begging for help for the dear children. My house will be the last to be built, and that without appealing to the public.

For 22 years I have been building up our educational establishments, until they were, I believe, unrivaled among missions throughout the Dominion. We have been educating the pick among the Indians throughout a diocese including more than half of this province. Seeing a number of whites scattered over this area whole children could not have any schooling because of distance from schools, and of poverty, we started a boarding school for the Indians, and half-breeds on church land—not on the Indian reserves. According to the ability of the parents they pay fees from \$1.00 a week to \$5.00 a month, and the most destitute are received without payment of any kind, and are kept from the age of 5 to 18 in a refined home, with the same care offered to the paying pupils. Thus we turn waifs into good citizens, and try to make them true Christians. If this is not a Christian work, I do not know what is.

I appeal for help, there is none on earth.

I am leaving for England on August 6, and will be back on the 12th. The Bank of Commerce will receive any contributions from donors in this province. Already orders for building are issued, and by the 15th of next month the new white Home at least will receive back the little ones into a home brighter and better than the old one, long since destroyed.

Gifts may also be sent to the lady matron, Miss West, of Metlakathla. I am, sir, yours truly, W. RIDLEY, Bishop of California.

THE DELPIT CASE. Wife Will Oppose Application for Divorce—Custody of Children.

Montreal, Aug. 5.—(Special)—The Delpit marriage case has entered on a new phase. Mr. Delpit, representing Mrs. Delpit, left tonight to oppose the application for divorce, which Delpit has made on a plea of incompatibility of temper and he will also apply for a writ of habeas corpus for the mother.

AN EYE-OPENER.

To the Editor: Sir: Pray listen to a plain, unvarnished tale of traps set to catch unwary travelers in and through this beautiful world. This tale relates to salmon traps, and is a sort of everlasting sal question. To whom do these salmon belong? They are born and bred on the coast, naturally, or artificially, by pisciculture.

A number of jolly tourists invited the writer to accompany them on a trip from Victoria to Fraser River, and thence to Vancouver via Rosario Strait, United States territory, on pleasure and instruction bent, with hospitality unbounded.

On the morning for San Juan Island and on nearing it, the island looked as though fenced in with upright poles. What are they? Salmon traps. I soon saw why, and the traps invited me to wait to see the salmon lifted to the barge alongside. "There are thirty thousand salmon on these traps," said the man in charge. "There are thousands of them, and the remainder will remain in the traps until we want them. Perhaps tomorrow. These ten thousand will be taken by the time you are here."

Now what is a salmon trap? It is a corral. The fish are not driven in but are simply deluded and led there. A Fraser River fisherman, and the traps are like the letter "H" on a large scale. "There are thirty thousand salmon on these traps," said the man in charge. "There are thousands of them, and the remainder will remain in the traps until we want them. Perhaps tomorrow. These ten thousand will be taken by the time you are here."

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Expel the Foreigners

With This Inscription on Their Flag Thousands of Rebels Take the Field.

The Chinese Court Sends Troops To Meet the Insurgents--in Chi-Li.

The rising of the Lien-chuan-hui is assuming most grave proportions, according to news brought by the Queen Adelaide, and news is given that the Chinese plenipotentiaries have received orders from the Throne to entrust the duty of quelling the insurgents to Governor Yuan Shih-kai and another general, and that these two officers are making preparations to depart for the province of Chi-Li.

The Imperial Court, having been convinced, it is said, that Tung Fuh-shang is actually moving towards Hsian with rebellious aims, has taken measures to check his progress. The guards visible in the however are not sufficient for the purpose, and a levy of troops has been invited, with the result that the number of troops at the disposal of the government is now estimated at some fifteen or sixteen battalions.

The Queen Adelaide also brought news that the military governor of Biagovestchensk and districts, committed suicide recently as he was approaching the above city on his return (24 hours) that they will frantically intercept them. If they do not enter the first traps, they are more or less captured by subsequent ones.

Now, let me say here—and I hope the public will pay attention, for it is of the utmost importance—that I saw at least two hundred and fifty men, and generally results from delay at sea. The same thing happens on the Fraser, when for some reason or other the fish do not get to the cannery soon enough or sufficiently fresh. The heads and tails in some places are saved and made into oil and tallow, but the rest is thrown away.

The traps do not necessarily belong to the cannery owners. They have some of course, and make contracts with others and give the fish to whomever they like. The Fraser river canneries at a smaller figure than twelve and a half cents, the price paid to the striking fishermen. After we were in the cannery, I was retained by the owner of the year, Wigram, who had an Indian figure painted in the cabin. I said, "We do not mean to allow you to take all our fish."

"Well," he said, "you have been long enough thinking about it. When you have traps let us know, and we will come and do all the business! Bon voyage."

We left at sundown passed through miles of traps on our way to Vancouver where we arrived at midnight. The St. Clair went to a wharf about ten or fifteen feet above our heads. Fortunately a ladder was thrown up to us, and we scrambled, on a moonlight night, safely to the top, and thence to Vancouver Hotel. We found the hotel open, ready to receive poor belated tourists, and a letter was waiting for us, which, having been sixteen hours on the water and doing 130 miles, having for half the distance been in sight of traps.

In conclusion, I have endeavored to tell about the traps on the Fraser, and the Dominion government either by its present absurd regulations against traps willfully to ruin the salmon fisheries of British Columbia, or by the other hand, to destroy the industry over the United States, or save the industry even at this late period by allowing traps and other conservative measures to raise the price of fish to the most important business of the province. If British Columbia has to pay twelve and a half cents for a fish that the United States cannery can procure for five cents, the latter will be the obvious. Even at the present moment the United States can undersell our merchants in Great Britain, but they choose to do otherwise as being the most profitable. They have eighty millions of their own people to supply, without any chance of opposition. They are protected in every way.

The fish come up the straits of San Juan de Puca on their way to their destination. Surely it is sheer insanity to allow them all to pass by our habitations, for some fanciful, not reason, but to put a trap on every fish that comes up the straits. The thing therefore, if it will make little difference to the time of this occurrence, my joining in the very profitable fray. But this cry of "No traps" is a mere cry for the sake of the government. It is not a cry for the sake of the fish. Theoretically it seems probable, but history so far does not support the contention. True, traps have only been a few years in use, but they are everywhere. If the government has this cry, it is not set about having more and better hatcheries, and at more stations, instead of fishing and selling the fish to the cannery. Destroy or be destroyed. Traps must be allowed in the Straits of De Puca, in fact in all Canadian waters, otherwise—facile Resuscitavit—

J. S. HELMCKEN. Victoria, Aug. 5, 1901.

Friendly Help.—The monthly meeting of the Friendly Help Society will be held at their rooms this morning at the usual time. A good attendance is requested.

YESTERDAY'S FUNERALS. Last Sad Rites Over Remains of Two Victorians.

The funeral of the late Isaac Lancaster took place yesterday afternoon from the family residence, No. 171 Cook street, at 2:45, and at 3 o'clock at St. Ramabas church. Services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Miller at the residence, and at the church by the Rev. Mr. Miller, assisted by Messrs. W. Wilson, W. Holmes, W. Rockett, H. McDonald, H. Harris and G. McCook.

The funeral of the late Mrs. D. D. Moses took place yesterday morning from the parlors of W. J. Hanna, at 2 o'clock, and at 2:15 at St. Nicholas cemetery, when Rev. Mr. Christian conducted appropriate services. There was a large attendance of old acquaintances, and the services were conducted by Messrs. J. D. Bryant, S. Roberts, T. Mitchell, D. Innis and J. J. Downey.

A COLONIAL NOTE. A curious find was made last week by a boy in Amherst, N.S. While rummaging about in the dark corners of one of the tumble-down houses there, he found a note, which was one penny in value, and is in good state of preservation, and the signature and date fairly legible. It is printed only on one side, and is about 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches. It bears the following on the face: "Province of Nova Scotia, by Law, The bearer thereof is entitled to receive at the Treasury Office in Halifax, one penny on the 1st of June, 1832, William Lawton. The number is illegible."

GOUGHAN NEWS.

Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson—Crosses Are Good.

Cobble Hill, Aug. 5.—(Special)—One of the most happy social functions for a number of years was the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson. Although married in Victoria, the past quarter-century has been spent in this district. Not only have they the distinction of being pioneers, but as well, it may be said, none in the community have done more than they to advance the social and industrial interest of the community.

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Knob Hill and Old Ironsides

Granby Smelter Treats 188,000 Tons of Ore in the Past Year.

Wonderful Development --- Millions of Tons of Ore in Sight.

Grand Forks, B. C., Aug. 1, (Special Correspondence).—A. L. White of Montreal, New York, secretary of the Granby Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, has just concluded his annual inspection of the company's mining properties in the Boundary district. Mr. White has paid a yearly visit to the West every summer in order to keep in touch with the progress of development work.

"After each succeeding trip," said he to your correspondent, "I marvel at the increasing value of our properties, but the culminating surprise of all was reserved for this year, my fondest anticipations of the success of our smelting operations have been more than realized. While standing before No. 1 furnace in the reduction works the other night I was informed by the foreman that the molten stream I was pouring out had been running continuously from the day before yesterday until then with the exception of a close down during the holidays, July 1 and 2, with the object of making supposed needed repairs. On the morning of the 3rd, however, it was found that the furnace was as usual, and that it did not require re-lining. This, I believe, breaks all records for copper smelting in this country, and is a most exceptional case of a close down during the holidays, July 1 and 2, with the object of making supposed needed repairs. 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