

making my surroundings as comfortable as possible, taking short trips into the neighbouring country, and visiting the Indian village near by. The sound of saw and hammer was heard on all sides and new settlers were arriving daily, some coming in over the trail from the south and others arriving on the steamers. The river was rising rapidly, and navigation of the wild waters of the canyon, twelve miles below, was becoming difficult for the small boats. June is the month of high water on the Fraser and, now that the warm days had come, the snow in the mountains was melting rapidly and the river rising accordingly. Cool days, with rain, cause the river to lower considerably, for the moisture which falls as rain in the lower country falls as snow in the mountains, where the river has its source, and this does not melt until the return of the bright warm days, thus causing the river to rise again.

At last navigation was temporarily closed, and for twenty-seven days we had no communication whatever with the outside world; no mail arrived; no telegraph or telephone system was in operation, and as the days passed by it seemed as if we were indeed cut adrift from the world. The death of King Edward had occurred four days before the news reached the Fort. An Indian who had tramped the entire distance from the telegraph-office, over a hundred miles away, brought the news, saying, "Big King, he dead." The flag at the Fort, flying at half-mast, was the first intimation to many that the great ruler had passed away.

Supplies were running short; butter and fresh meat were luxuries, and the town ate pork and beans for a week, this diet being varied occasionally by the addition of fish. It was with feelings of relief that the welcome whistle of the steamer was finally heard, and she arrived with a small supply of fresh meat and other much

needed provisions. It was not until the new steamers were completed and placed in commission that the shortage in supplies was relieved. The strict game laws forbade the sale of any game, and although there was an abundance of deer, moose and bear meat to be had, very little of it found its way into the town.

Meanwhile the community prospered and, despite the many drawbacks and inconveniences, building progressed rapidly, houses and stores being built in a few days. A man's friendliness was measured by his willingness to lend hammer, saw or square. Axes took the place of hammers; roofing material was at a premium, and when I finally found myself ensconced in a home a little more pretentious than the tent, it was not so comfortable after all, as about as much rain came through the roof as was shed by it.

A small saw-mill attempted to supply the demand for lumber, but its output was wholly inadequate, and it was rather amusing to see men eagerly buying lumber and carrying it away as rapidly as the boards fell from the saw, and, in many instances, if a man added a dozen boards a day to his incomplete dwelling he was fortunate. The people lived mostly under canvas and, as the weather was mild, this was a pleasant and novel experience. The population was composed mainly of men, but, as the months passed by, women, as well as men, arrived and pleasant social evenings were spent. The community boasted a fiddler, and dances were held in the new billiard hall, the dull monotony of the long evenings being thus relieved. Despite the fact that no hotels as yet existed, the inebriating draught was ever present, and several "blind pigs" did a roaring business, disregarding law and order. Gambling for a time became common. Black-jack joints flourishing day and night. Soon, however, the law-abiding element gained the upper hand and