

The cap and gunpowder in the charge were damp and neither exploded. The scout followed the direction of the sound, but in the gloaming could not distinguish the object of his search. In the meantime the latter tried a second shot, when the cap only exploded, the flash thereof indicating his hiding place. The Indian was discovered, knocked down and handcuffed in an instant, and the next morning he and the young Cowichan Squeis, who had been arrested at Cowichan by the party on their way up to Nanaimo, were tried for murder on the quarter-deck of the steamer Beaver, found guilty and executed, these events happening between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on a frosty day in January, 1853.

In 1856 a white settler in the Cowichan Valley was shot by the Somenos chief. An armed party from H.M.S. "Monarch" and "Trincomalee" was sent in the latter vessel, towed by the steamer "Otter," to investigate the matter. The party numbered about 500 blue jackets and marines, fully equipped with small arms and two 12-pounder brass field pieces. The force landed at the mouth of the Cowichan River, near the Comiakian village, on a Sunday afternoon and encamped there. During the night a friendly scout passed the sentries and reaching the tent occupied by the Governor's staff communicated to Governor Douglas some important information, which determined his course of action. The next day the forces moved to the plain beyond Quamichan. After passing through the Quamichan village about one thousand Indians came forward to meet them according to their mode of warfare, naked and painted, armed with smooth-bore guns, bows and arrows and spears, and taking advantage of each tree for cover as they advanced firing their guns. Fortunately their aim was high, and the whooping and yelling did no execution. The naval forces were ranged in several detachments over the plain with artillery in position ready for service. As soon as the Somenos chief was recognised a detachment of marines were so manoeuvred as to surround him with his body-guard of several

other Indians. The chief's gun had been discharged and he had no time to reload, but he cut a sergeant of marines badly with his dagger knife and wounded two of the officers before he was finally captured. As soon as it was known that he was taken his followers disappeared like magic and the day was won. The scene whilst it lasted was extremely picturesque. The chief was caught a little before noon, when the forces were piped to dinner. At 1 p.m. his trial began. He was convicted at 2 p.m. and sentenced to be hanged. The execution took place at 3 p.m., the was hanged to the bough of an oak tree in his war-paint and feathers, and met his death with stoical indifference. He was an active, well-proportioned, muscular young man and had only lately assumed the duties and responsibilities of chief of his band. When a boy he had been betrothed, according to Indian custom, to a Comiakian girl. When he succeeded his father as chief he claimed his promised bride, who was now a young woman. She, though not fair, was false, and had listened to the wiles of the white settler. The chief then acted according to his lights and revenged himself on his rival, but in doing so he outraged the law of the white man and lost his life in consequence. In 1858, during the rush to the Fraser gold diggings, many encounters occurred between the miners and Indians and a number of lives were lost on both sides. In time, however, matters quieted down, the laws were extended through the settlements, the Indians soon learned to appreciate the advantages of law and order, and excepting when occasionally under the influence of intoxicants they are remarkably well behaved.

The following list shows the approximate number of the different races in this Province:

Haidah .....	625
Tinneh .....	7,000
Salish .....	10,735
Kuakyohl .....	5,231
Total .....	23,691