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with the upper country, the firm through square and honorable business having secured an enormous trade. Besides their retail, order and forwarding business at Ashcroft the firm conducts a large general business at Enderby, on the Bushwag branch of the C. P. R., but this they are about to close out on account of the increasing pressure of business in Ashcroft and adjacent districts. Mr. Harvey's family is at present residing at Enderby, while Mr. Bailey keeps his family residence in Ashcroft.

CARIBOO MAIL FACILITIES.

That which, perhaps, attracts the visitor while riding through this district more than anything else in particular is the splendid mail privileges enjoyed by the settlers in this sparsely populated district along the main stage route. It is not the number of the mails, for



MR. STEPHEN TINGLEY,
Manager B. C. Express Co. (Ltd.), Ash-
croft, B.C.

true the stage service north of Clinton is only weekly, but the regularity of the service and the pains taken to accommodate those who live along the way. The people's papers and letters are left at every man's door in a small box built for the purpose, and the rancher and miner is saved the trouble and expense of riding perhaps a great many miles to his nearest postoffice. This entails not a little trouble to the stage drivers, particularly on a cold or stormy day when the horses are restless and the roads bad and days short, still the company requires its drivers to do this, and all stages are required to make their run regardless of wind or weather. The quantity of mail matter over this route has been steadily increasing of late, and there are calls for branch services from newly opened mining fields and agricultural sections, which will doubtless be granted in the not distant future.

The inhabitants of Barkerville and vicinity, too, are demanding a bi-weekly service on the grounds that their rich section of country rightly deserves it, and that it would do much in assisting further developments. This is very true, as business men investing capital want to be in closer touch with their business than by means of a mail which takes one week in each direction. But of course this is a Government matter, and as a rule Governments are slow to move in such cases, but a deal has will not be turned much longer in this line, as the new phase of development Cariboo is now undergoing will cause her to speak in a loud voice.

EXPENSIVE TO OPERATE.

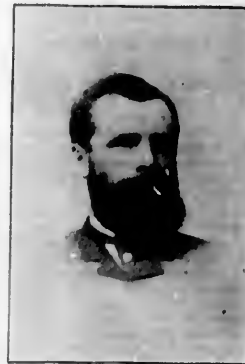
When stepping into the stage depot at Ashcroft passengers who have always travelled on

trains are sometimes surprised that they are not allowed to carry the same quantity of baggage free as they get on the trains—a one hundred and fifty pound sack of goods, for instance—free with each passenger ticket. When they become better posted, however, they learn that a stage is not as roomy as a passenger train and they realize that the company does all it can for the money received. It takes experience, energy and ability to run a stage, express and mail route through a country like the Cariboo district, where the distances are so great and population so thinly scattered. For instance it requires one hundred horses to operate the British Columbia Express Co.'s business and eighty dollars per ton is no uncommon price for hay in the Barkerville section with grain accordingly. Then the drivers and hostlers receive large wages and the wear and tear of harness and running gear is no small item. One of the smallest items of expenditure, the drivers' meals, alone cost the company two thousand dollars annually.

A WELL-MANAGED COMPANY.

The president and manager of the British Columbia Express Co. Ltd., is Mr. Stephen Tingley who, although not by any means an old man, is a veteran in his business and pioneer of the province. Mr. Tingley, who is a native of Westmorland county, N. H., crossed the isthmus in the year 1850, and after mining a short time in California joined the multitude for the newly discovered Cariboo gold fields. The founder of this famous stage and express business was the late Francis Barnard, M.P., who carried the mails to Cariboo from Yale along the Fraser before the stage road was built. Mr. Tingley entered the employ of Mr. Barnard in 1854 and the following year the late James Hamilton of Woodstock, N. B., too, entered the service. Afterward Messrs. Tingley and Hamilton were taken in as partners with Mr. Barnard, these gentlemen being the principal shareholders when the company was incorporated. After the death of Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Barnard, Mr. Tingley was for several years associated with the original promoter's son, Mr. Frank Barnard, at present M.P. for Cariboo, but exchanged interests in Victoria with Mr. Barnard for his holdings in the Express Company, and so became the

expert accountant, and although warmly devoted to his company's business takes a keen interest in the development of the surrounding country. Few institutions are doing more for the general welfare of British Columbia than this wide awake express company, for besides



MR. J. J. MACKEY,
auditor, B. C. Express Co. (Ltd.), Ashcroft, B.C.

furnishing means of travel the money made is pretty well divided among the settlers of the Cariboo district in the purchase of supplies.

The company has carried the mails to Cariboo, with a month's exception, since 1853 to the present day, and have given ever satisfaction both to the public and postal department. They have in those years carried enormous quantities of gold and treasure, and notwithstanding some stage robberies and other losses, shippers have never suffered. All stages in which treasure is transported from the mines are accompanied by an armed guard armed with heavy revolvers and a Winchester, and the gold is packed in an iron box with combination lock and bolted to the stage, and an open Lloyd's policy is carried. There were two hold ups this year, but in each case



CARIBOO EXCHANGE, ASHCROFT, B.C.

largest shareholder. Mr. Tingley, who has a practical knowledge of all the details of staging, personally superintends the work, residing with his charming family at Ashcroft.

Another gentleman closely associated with the company's interest is J. J. McKay, a director and auditor. Mr. McKay came from Pictou county, N.S., and has been with the company since 1883. Mr. McKay is a pleasant gentleman, and an

the stolen treasure was recovered, and the offenders are now serving respectively a ten and fifteen years sentence in penitentiary. In British Columbia justice is meted out with promptness, according to the stern mandates of English law.

The Cariboo Exchange, corner of Railroad avenue and Third street, is run by Mr. William R. Pickett, a pioneer who has lived

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