

NEW DREDGE FOR ATLIN.

sh-American Company Have Let Contract For Another of Increased Capacity.

T. Switzer, of Philadelphia, of the sh-American Mining Company, arriving in Atlin, arrived in the city. He will leave on Thursday Atlin to begin the year's operations. Large dredge built by the company year is ready to commence work as the spring opens. Mr. Switzer superintendent matters himself. The dredge has a capacity of 3,000 yards a day. It is operated by electricity, generated on Pine Creek falls. A few days' run made last year, so that those interested in the scheme. It dredges its way, washing out the gold as it goes.

satisfied are they of the success of the dredge. The company has let contract for the installation of a dredge almost twice the size of the one now built. Mr. Switzer, while away out, entered into the contract with the company. The new dredge will have a capacity of 5,000 yards a day. It will be operated by electricity, generated on Pine Creek falls. It is intended to complete the work by October. About the end of the year, therefore, be possible to begin the work.

success of this method of hydraulic mining will prove an important one for British Columbia. There is an abundance of ground in the province which may be worked in this way. It is believed that it will solve the question of working the low grade benches of the Fraser river.

the Atlin country it means the digging out of an immensely increased amount of gold for that district. Mr. Switzer, who represents the eastern miners who are back of the enterprise, has no doubt whatever of its success. It is the solution to his mind of the question of handling the hydraulic mines along the Atlin creek which is capable of being treated according to this method.

SEPTIC TANKS.

Pell Recommends the Appointment of a Committee to Inspect Them.

There are four notices of motion on the Atlin bulletin board. One of these has already been reproduced in the Times. It is by Ald. Vincent, and proposes the laying of a permanent sewer on Wharf street between Fort and Bastion square. Ald. Pell in moving that a committee be appointed to inquire into and ascertain at early date those portions of the city which cannot be connected with the sewerage system, with power to employ any other methods in force, and to the result of their investigations conclusions to the council.

will be recalled by members of the Atlin that a visit such as is outlined in the above was made to Vancouver by city engineer and members of the Atlin some time ago, and the septic system was investigated. They were fully convinced of the efficiency of the tanks for those areas which can be connected with the sewerage system, and likely that a similar system will be adopted here.

Stewart has a notice of his intention to ask the council to introduce a by-law to amend the sewerage act and rental by-law. The same day gives notice of a resolution to the construction of permanent sidewalks on the north and south sides of street from Blanchard street to the Bay road, as already mentioned in the Times. The motion is that the work be carried out as a local improvement, the corporation contribute one-third the cost, to be repaid on debentures in the usual way.

SUMMER SPORTS.

of Physical Committee of the Y. C. A.—Arrangements Discussed.

evening a meeting of the physical committee of the Young Men's Christian association was held, there being a good attendance. Arrangements for summer sports were discussed, and it was decided to have intermediate baseball and lacrosse, as well as lawn tennis. The question of organizing a field sports team was considered. Several of those present of the opinion that there was sufficient material available to make a team would be a credit to any association. Therefore decided to get together a number of the best local sprinters, high jumpers and shot putters who would be to compete under the name of the Y. C. A. A preliminary meet will be held the 24th of May, and those who show they will be selected to make up a team entered in the N. P. A. A. meet at Vancouver. Committees were appointed in hand the necessary organization to make a success of the baseball and lacrosse teams and to make arrangements for securing a tennis court.

COMOX, LOOKING TOWARD THE BAY.

TROUBLESOME BABIES.

es are not naturally troublesome—should be bright, active and happy joy to your home. When baby is some you may depend upon it as some of the many minor ailments which bother him. These can all be cured by the use of Baby's Own Tablets. Proof of this is given by Mrs. Marshall, Falkland Ridge, N. S. says: "I am pleased to state that I used Baby's Own Tablets for my children with great success. I have the Tablets the very best medicine for the ailments of small children, and recommend them to mothers of troublesome babies." Baby's Own Tablets cure constipation, indigestion, diarrhoea, prevent allay irritation at teething time, up colds and destroy worms. There are none of the minor ailments of childhood which the Tablets cure. Sold by druggists or may be sent 25 cents a box by writing to Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Lowell, Ont.

ten flour mills shut down, indicating Thursday, says a Minneapolis paper.

COMOX

ITS FINE COAL MEASURES AND ITS FERTILE VALLEY

BY H. F. PULLEN.

Summer finds the Comox farmer working enough to do. Labeche, he ceases to trudge like the mythic Jew.

—Eric Duncan.

But little known to the city dweller or miner of Vancouver Island, and wholly unknown to those who dwell across the Gulf of Georgia, is the beautiful farming valley of Comox. This valley is named after a tribe of Indians who made periodical visits to the shores of its splendid harbor to fish and hunt and grow-wheat, or quarrel with the resident tribe or other visitors to this favored and much frequented spot.

Just who discovered this agricultural gem I cannot say, but the old people tell us that as early as 1802 a meeting was held in Victoria to discuss the matter of settling the prairie lands of Comox. At this meeting Sir Jas. Douglas offered to send a subcommittee to select the best lands. The offer was accepted, and a number of men, mostly new arrivals from Australia and New Zealand, made the trip. They located their new farms and returned to Victoria for supplies.



CAMERON LAKE.

pies, and in one or two instances their own land, built log houses, cleared, levelled, drained and tilled their farms into shape. Year after year they toiled at the monotonous yet not uninteresting work of home-making, and nothing but a visit to the spot can tell how well they succeeded.

As seen to-day, the valley is a perfect paradise. As the visitor enters the harbor on the commodious coaster the City of Nanaimo, which makes two trips a week, he will probably see one or more of the ships of the Royal Navy anchored behind the sand spit on which are the rifle ranges, where the marines take their daily target practice. Here as many ships as wish may anchor in perfect safety, protected from every wind that blows, and the officers and crew may revel in the delights of a rural holiday and eat of the freshest and finest quality of farm produce.

Landing at Comox or "The Bay," as it is generally called, the visitor sees before him a rural scene, the picturesque-ness of which will gladden his heart and make him look forward to a closer acquaintance with this much favored country. On one side of the wharf he will see the old-fashioned inn known as the Elk hotel, which will remind him of the old English village hostelry; on the other side the commodious store owned by J. B. Holmes. Behind there are large maple trees, their spreading branches forming a fine background for the picture, whilst peeping between is the Lorne hotel, with Sam Cliffe at the door. Sam, the proprietor of the hotel, is an old-timer. It is a treat to see him as the oldest Mason in the district carrying his big Bible near the head of a procession, his long beard giving him a truly patriarchal appearance. Sam can tell you many a story of the early days. He it was who got together the original Union Company of eleven men to prospect the Union mines. Three years later he sold out his share for \$1,000, and fourteen years after that James Dunsmuir bought out the original company. Mrs. Cliffe went to Comox in 1862 as a little girl long before she married Sam. If you face about in front of the Lorne hotel you may see the big glacier, the foot of which is the source of the Cruikshank river. This mountain stream flows into Comox lake, the water passing out again as the Courtenay river which flows into Comox bay. During winter all the top of the mountain range is covered with snow, but in summer little is left except in the shaded crevasses and on the highest points.

If you take the stage from Comox Bay to Courtenay you will pass through the Indian rancherie. Here are a few Comox Indians and one family of Puntledge Indians—all that is left of both tribes. The latter were the original natives of Comox, but many other tribes from north and south, as well as the Algonquians, were in the habit of visiting this spot every year, often staying a long time. Thousands of these aborigines were often encamped all around the shores of the bay, and some distance up the river. Smallpox carried off many of them, some were sent away by the government, while many others have succumbed to tuberculosis. On several occasions missions have been started among them, but with little success. As everywhere, they here adopt the vices of civilization quicker than the virtues. Courtenay is another village, just at the junction of the Courtenay and Trolu rivers, with two hotels, a blacksmith shop and a store. The latter, kept by Joseph McPhee & Sons, does a large business throughout the community. Mr. McPhee was twice a candidate for the provincial legislature in opposition to the old Turner government, but was defeated each time. He has a large farm and also a butcher business in Cumberland. Fruit raising is one of

his hobbies, his ten-acre apple orchard showing that he is meeting with success in that line. The Comox creamery, in charge of W. J. Carroll, made nearly forty thousand pounds of butter last season. Walter McPhee, the secretary, says they have a ready sale for all the output at the top price.

Opposite the creamery lives old Adam McKelvey. Adam left the Emerald Isle about the year fifty-eight for Australia. After four years strenuous life on the southern continent, he came to British Columbia, landing at Esquimalt in '62.

He is the only one left of the first settlers. "Like living in Paradise," is what he says of the valley in the early days. There were plenty of elk, bear and deer of all sorts, while geese were so plentiful they often fed the pigs with them. Many a time he sat at his door watching droves of elk passing along the edge of the hill or feeding on the prairie. In those days the Indians had no guns, using only bows and arrows in their hunting expeditions.

It cost ten shillings to send a letter to the Old Country, and besides that half-crown had to be paid at the other end. He also tells how when visiting Victoria he paid ten shillings a week at the Royal hotel for a blanket on the floor and nothing to eat but herrings and cod. The bank charged for keeping money instead of paying interest. So many hardships had to be endured that a number of immigrants returned to Australia or the Old Land.

In Courtenay is the agricultural hall where the farmers hold their annual exhibition. Interest in this institution has declined of late years, but the outlook for next year is very good, many of the farmers expressing their determination to make it a success. J. A. Halliday, who has been secretary for so many years, has resigned his position, and his son takes it up with all the energy of youth.

Follow the road which passes up the banks of the Little Trolu, and you soon come to Duncan's farm and store, the latter in charge of Eric, the literateur, writer of the verse which heads this sketch. Mr. Duncan is a writer of great ability. A book of his poems has been published by Wm. Briggs, and many other poems as well as prose writings have appeared in the "Chronicle" and "Herald." A book of his poems has been published by Wm. Briggs, and many other poems as well as prose writings have appeared in the "Chronicle" and "Herald." A book of his poems has been published by Wm. Briggs, and many other poems as well as prose writings have appeared in the "Chronicle" and "Herald."

Just below the pretty little English

church is the rectory, the home of Rev. J. X. Willmar, who came to the district in '71. He built two churches and the rectory at Comox, as well as establishing a mission and building a church at Cumberland. Rev. Thos. Menzies is the pastor of the Presbyterians in the district. They have two churches as well as a regular service in the agricultural hall.

Alex. Urquhart owns one of the best farms in the valley. He has won one gold and three silver medals for stock at the local show. A member of the provincial executive of the Liberal Association, president of the Farmers' Institute and a member of the Dairyman's Association, Mr. Urquhart figures largely in public life, and his influence is very wide. James Cartwright is a new arrival from

RECOGNIZES BRAVE DEED OF RESCUERS

Capt. Macaulay Recommends Wm. Calder for Royal Humane Society's Medal for Life-saving.

The heroic action of William Calder, second officer of the British ship Pass of Killiecrankie, in rescuing the crew of the sealing schooner Penelope, was described in the Times some time ago. It is pleasing to know that the gallant

passed between Capt. Macaulay and the secretary of the Pacific Coast Division Merchant Service Guild of Canada and between second officer Wm. Calder and the special agent of the Merchant Guild of Canada at Vancouver:

Victoria, B. C., March 14th, 1904. J. J. Martin, Esq., Secretary Pacific Coast Division, Merchant Service Guild, of Canada, Victoria, B. C.:

Dear Sir:—You are doubtless aware of the wreck of the Penelope in Clallam bay, and the loss of one of her crew. My object in writing you is to say that were it not for the gallant conduct of Mr. William Calder, second officer of the Killiecrankie, and his brave crew of volunteers, who risked their lives to save us, neither I nor any of my crew would be here to say how it happened. It will not be necessary for me to go into details, as they have already appeared, with more or less accuracy, in the papers. But I wish to say this, and to emphasize it strongly, that were it not for Mr. Calder and his brave crew, my crew and I were doomed, and since he and they rescued us, at the peril of their own lives, no more worthy object for recognition could be presented to the favorable notice of the Royal Humane Society, or any other body that takes cognizance of meritorious deeds of bravery. I would, therefore, ask the guild to present this case to the notice of such bodies as one deserving of favorable recognition. I also desire to tender my sincere thanks to Captain Vint, of the Killiecrankie, and his estimable wife, for their untiring efforts and their extreme kindness in restoring my beamed crew to life after their rescue from the angry waves.

I am, dear sir, Yours faithfully, (Signed) W. M. MACAULAY, Master Schooner Penelope.

(P. S.—I have just learned that the brave Calder is a member of our guild, but neither of us was aware of it at the time. If he is

officer may receive recognition at the hands of the Royal Humane Society by being awarded their medal for bravery in saving life. Mr. Calder is about thirty years of age and a native of Wick, Caithness, Scotland. By the ability displayed in the work of rescue the work was successfully carried out though at the imminent risk of his life. Associated with him in the boat which went to land are Capt. Macaulay and his crew on the Penelope were the following from the Pass of Killiecrankie: August Thompson, carpenter; Peter Larsen, sailmaker; and Oscar Lingquist, Evan Owens and Lauritz Anderson, seamen.

The following communications have been received from the Royal Humane Society:

But yet though greybeard Winter comes, he brings with him along The cheerful round of festive joys, the reading and the song. Who will may seek the crowded town or range the stormy sea, This quiet, independent life is just the life for me.

DEATHS FROM PLAGUE. Johannesburg, March 24.—The bubonic plague is spreading. There are now sixty-nine suspected cases among the colored population, and nine among the white. Fifty-five whites and fifty natives have already died from the disease.

FOR GRAZING PURPOSES. Ottawa, March 26.—Hewitt Bostock has purchased from the government 880 acres in the forty mile belt for \$2 per acre for grazing purposes.

E. D. Currier, of Ashcroft, is registered at the Vernon.

EXPLORER DEAD. Baltimore, Md., March 24.—George E. Yewell, one of the last survivors of the Greely relief expedition, is dead from consumption. Yewell was one of three men with Lieut. Tamm, of the exploring party that found the records at Brevoort Island, telling where the Greely party was camped, and he brought the news and documents to Captain Schley. He was also one of the first to find the dying survivors at Cape Sabine. Two other members of the party also have died from consumption.

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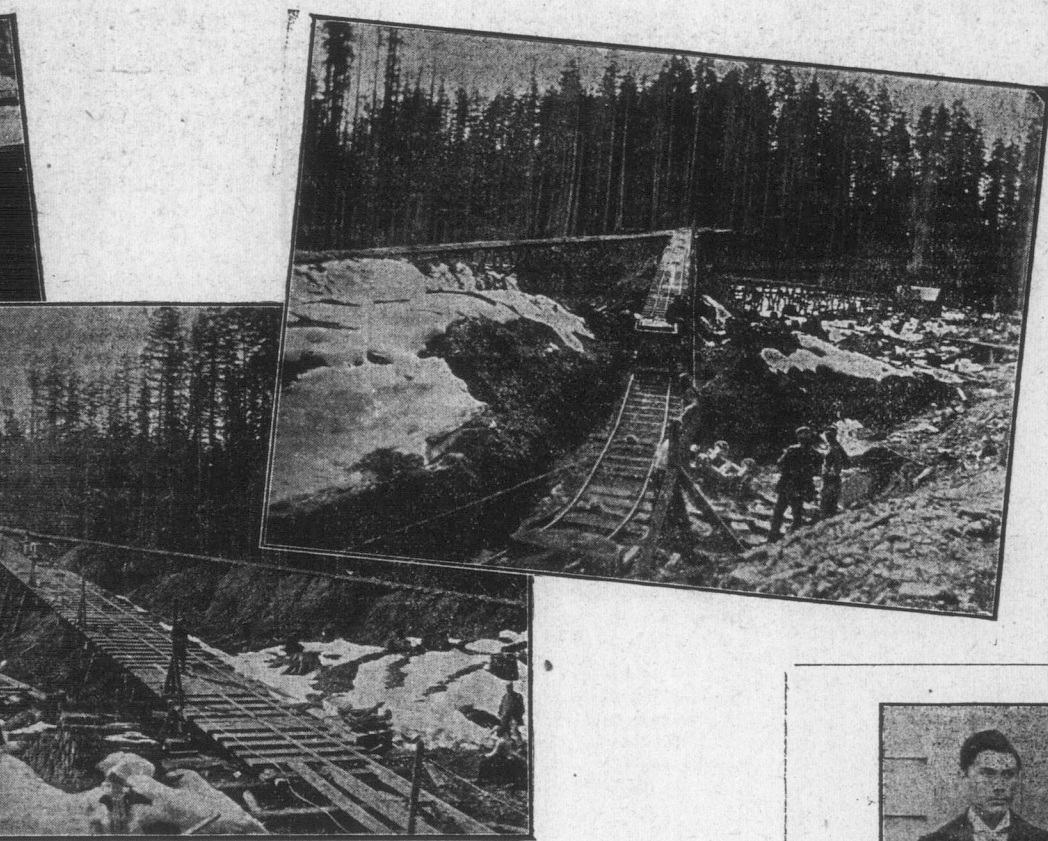
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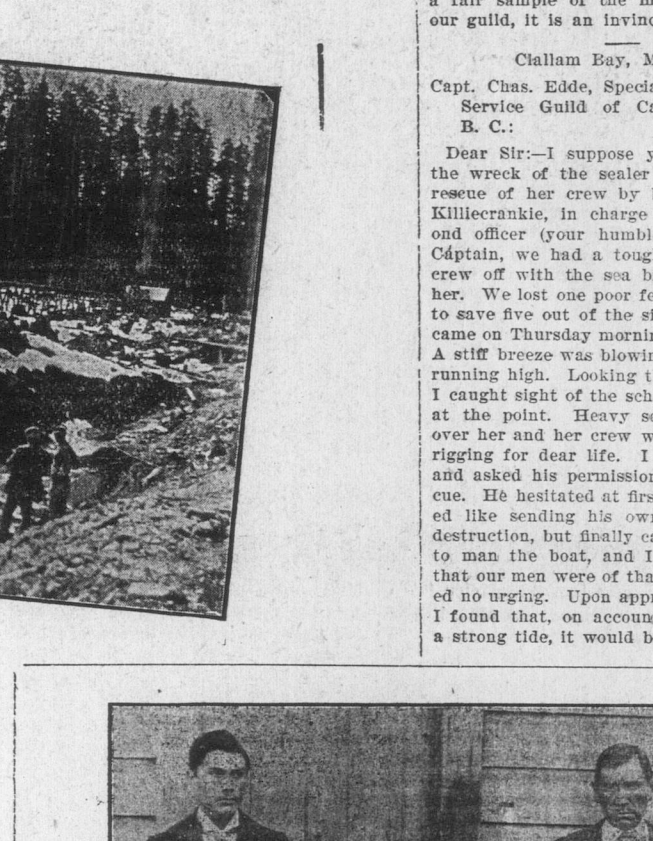
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GROUP OF COMOX INDIANS.

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