

# SEARCH FOR COAL FIELDS DISCOVERY ON QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

### W. A. Robertson Tells of His Experiences in the Early Days.

Among the pioneer prospectors of the province none have a more interesting story to tell than W. A. Robertson, who has done so much to exploit the coal measures of Queen Charlotte Island.

The sale recently of the coal measures which he discovered many years ago after a number of years, is gratifying news to Mr. Robertson's many friends. The Queen Charlotte Islands are coming into prominence at the present time and it is not surprising that Mr. Robertson, by his persistent efforts to advance the interests of that section of the province, has richly earned all the reward that may come to him.

In an interview with Mr. Robertson relative to the discovery of coal on the island, he thus described the circumstances:

"In July, 1885, I made up my mind to go to Queen Charlotte Islands principally to prospect for gold at Gold Harbor, where the Hudson's Bay Company, through the Indians, discovered a rich pocket of gold in rock several years before the time I understood that some land had been taken up in the Queen Charlotte group. I applied to the late Wm. Smith, then chief commissioner of lands and works, for information of what land had been taken. Mr. Smith asked me if I was going to prospect there. He informed me the government wanted the Masset peninsula explored to find out its value as agricultural land, but he said I don't think according to the information we have received from our last explorer there, that you can cross it, as it is said to be all swamps. I told him we would cross it, swamps or no swamps. He also wanted the timber explored around what at that time was called Aron lake, on the west side of Masset Inlet, and a report of the results of the exploration.

"He requested me to send him a letter, including a proposition, and he would lay it before his colleagues, which I did, and reserving to myself and whoever might be along with me, the right to take up any discoveries we might make. I was informed in a day or two that my proposition was accepted, and I soon found the right man to go with me. It was the late James Shields, not Charles, as has been reported. A better man for the job in view could not be found. He was a genuine good all-round man, the best I ever had with me.

"We left Victoria July 7th, on the steamer Boscovitz, and landed at Fort Simpson. There we had to wait a few days to get to Masset, but Mr. Hall, of the Hudson's Bay Company, took us over in a small sloop, which took us two days and one night. At Masset we met the late Mr. McKenzie, at that time in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's station there. He very kindly gave us all the information he could about that part of the island, and gave us the use of a good canoe and some charges. We went up the inlet about twelve miles and struck across the peninsula to the east coast of the island, over bogs and undulating low hills, and considerable good land, and prospected the coast; found some colors of the gold in red gravel, but not to amount to much. We went about five miles further south and struck back again to Masset Inlet, and found the country pretty much the same as in our course further north. Then we went to Aron lake to cruise the timber, and found the lake much longer than represented. We had some excellent trout fishing there, but were tormented with fire-not fishing flies. We returned to the inlet and prospected the various arms of the inlet and Mamon lake, and returned to Masset and examined the port end of the peninsula, and climbed Gow hill for a view of the country south. As I gave a report to the government at the time, it is not necessary to say more here.

"On the fourth day up the river we got into good looking coal formation, and had to watch very closely for fear we would pass it. Mr. Shields had some grouse, which was a welcome change. On the fifth day we went on very slowly, as I was sure the coal was near. Towards camping time we came to a small stream coming from the east side of the Yakoun. We examined this outlet and found pieces of coal which had not come far. I returned to the canoe and told Shields that there was coal up that creek, and we would camp, as it was a nice place for the purpose, and we would follow the stream in the morning.

"We hauled up our canoe. Shields started in to cook our supper, at which he was good, as he was at everything he tried, and I hunted wood for the fire and brush for our bunk. Noticing a tree turned out of root I thought of the report that the late Robert Dundas had found the outcrop of the Wellington seam under a tree, so turned up. I thought perhaps there might be some coal under that tree also, and on examining I picked up my hat full of coal and took it to the fire and showed it to Shields. I said the coal is not far away, although there is no seam visible where I found this, as it is float coal. We put the coal in the fire and it burned beautifully, showing it was a first class quality of coal.

"The next morning, a fine Sunday morning, and there being no Sunday laws in force, backed by a policeman's club, we started up the creek, picking up pieces of coal. The further up we went the larger were the pieces. When about half a mile along I noticed the coal in place in the creek. I said to Mr. Shields, 'see the coal.' He said, 'I suppose it is a six-inch seam.' 'No,' I said, 'I can see two feet of it, anyway.' We had no shovel, as I forgot my prospecting pack at a camp down the river, but made a wooden sort of shovel, and cleared off the gravel until six feet of the seam was exposed. Then I broke out a quantity of the coal and made a fire of it, and it burned splendidly. I remarked to Shields, 'The coal is all right, there is no better coal on the Pacific coast.' We took a small sack of the coal with us and went back to camp and posted our notices of location, and as it was Sunday, we rested the balance of the day. Next morning we started up the river, and it took us two days to get to the lake, and as we believed we were the first white men there, we named it Yakoun lake.

"We prospected around the lake for a day or two and found some signs of anthracite, but nothing of consequence. We stowed our canoe away at the head or south end of the lake, and started for the Cowgate anthracite mine by following a stream that came in from what appeared to be the lowest divide, which we followed to the divide. Noticing a high peak on the east side, and the evening being clear, we hurried towards the top so as to get a view of the country before the fog would settle down. On the way up Shields shot a bear, which went tumbling down the mountain. But we let him go until our return.

"We had a fine view from that peak.

"The fog closed our view off and we, hurrying back, found our bear. We took his skin and a nice fat ham to eat, and we informed him that he would be the last report. He informed us that the Indians had brought him a caribou head that they had shot on the island south of Virago Sound. I mention these facts as they are of some interest at present. I believe there are some of the descendants of Mr. McKenzie's deer somewhere on the island.

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# Gave Wrong Verdict

### AGED FARMER HAS NARROW ESCAPE FROM PREMATURE DEATH.

One of the most ancient families of the British nobility has for its motto "Dum Spiro Spero" ("While I breathe I hope"); and surely his might well be taken as the battle cry of every sufferer from Lung disease in this fair Canada of ours.

That many lives have been allowed to sink into the grave by default, especially in cases of Lung trouble, is apparent from the constant testimony of those who after having received such verdict by the use of PSYCHINE have been restored to complete health and vigor, and who have proved that the doctor's judgment was erroneous, by living to a good and robust old age.

Such a case is that of Mr. John Radford, of Ruskview, Co. Dufferin, Ont., who some years ago had reached such a low state of health that his medical attendant assured him that his Lungs were so seriously affected that it was absolutely useless for him to take any more medicine; and in fact that nothing more could be done for him. It was at this point that Mr. Radford started to use PSYCHINE. In a very short time his health began to improve, the Lung trouble disappeared, and he was soon able to go out and about the farm again.

On August 24th of this year Mr. Radford writes: "If it had not been for your PSYCHINE, I would have been in my grave years ago. I have received the benefit of your medicine since, as I have enjoyed perfect health. I am now 82 years of age, and feel quite smart. I recommend PSYCHINE to all sufferers from Lung disease as a SURE CURE."

Such evidence as the above cannot be gainsaid. It is genuine, convincing, and conclusive; but why not get a sample bottle and prove its merits for yourself? PSYCHINE is an infallible remedy for all disorders of Throat, Lungs and Stomach. Sold by all druggists and dealers at 50c and \$1. Prepared only by Dr. T. A. Slocum, Limited, of Toronto.

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# Enjoyable Evening Spent in Lodge Rooms of Local Courts.

The public installation of the officers of Court Cariboo and Pas West, Independent Order of Foresters, was performed last Tuesday evening in the K. of P. Hall by official representatives of the high court of British Columbia. The goat was safely chained in winter quarters, the rough and rocky road carefully cleared, and the secret work so completely masked that the initiated almost failed to recognize it.

The team work was ably performed by the guard of honor of the companion court, Far West. In full regalia, and was perfectly executed, notwithstanding the fact that the cold weather had prevented any rehearsal. Prof. A. R. Dobson supplied music in excellent time, and the ladies, with their singing and counter-marching, seated the officers of Court Cariboo; then, forming the letters O. F. amid the applause of those present, they formally escorted into the court and seated on the dais the high court representatives, H. Councilor R. B. Parkes, court physician, Dr. McMicking, past chief ranger, H. A. Leish; chief ranger, J. O. Welch; vice chief ranger, J. H. Croft; financial secretary, J. W. H. King; financial secretary, F. J. White; treasurer, R. W. Coleman; orator, J. Nixon; pianist, A. R. Dobson; senior woodward, E. H. MacIntyre; junior woodward, J. T. Miller; senior beadle, J. Cole; junior beadle, J. Stubbington. Companion court, Far West—C. deputy, Mrs. E. L. Lacey; C. physician, Dr. Geo. Hall; past C. R., Mrs. J. Moore; C. R., Mrs. E. G. Huff; vice C. R., Mrs. M. Croft; financial secretary, Mrs. E. B. King; financial secretary, Miss I. Moore; treasurer, Miss M. Middleton; orator, Mrs. S. Brooks; pianist, Mrs. E. Stubbington; woodward, Mrs. J. Parsons; junior woodward, Miss L. Nathan; senior beadle, Mrs. P. McKee; junior beadle, Mrs. E. Lacey.

The officers installed were: In Cariboo—Court deputy, Geo. Parkin; court physician, Dr. McMicking; past chief ranger, H. A. Leish; chief ranger, J. O. Welch; vice chief ranger, J. H. Croft; financial secretary, J. W. H. King; financial secretary, F. J. White; treasurer, R. W. Coleman; orator, J. Nixon; pianist, A. R. Dobson; senior woodward, E. H. MacIntyre; junior woodward, J. T. Miller; senior beadle, J. Cole; junior beadle, J. Stubbington. Companion court, Far West—C. deputy, Mrs. E. L. Lacey; C. physician, Dr. Geo. Hall; past C. R., Mrs. J. Moore; C. R., Mrs. E. G. Huff; vice C. R., Mrs. M. Croft; financial secretary, Mrs. E. B. King; financial secretary, Miss I. Moore; treasurer, Miss M. Middleton; orator, Mrs. S. Brooks; pianist, Mrs. E. Stubbington; woodward, Mrs. J. Parsons; junior woodward, Miss L. Nathan; senior beadle, Mrs. P. McKee; junior beadle, Mrs. E. Lacey.

For "Good of the Order." Bro. Parkes, H. C., praised the exhibition of court work, and exhorted the younger members to what Mr. Parkes called "the spirit of H. S., who had installed the officers of Court Cariboo for eight consecutive years, and he hoped to see the growth of an efficient companion court, and spoke at length on the true fraternity of the lodge room.

The evening's programme consisted of instrumental solos by Misses Middleton and Messrs. Dobson and Nixon; vocal solos by Mrs. J. Parsons, Mrs. E. B. King; recitations by Mrs. Gleason, and readings by Rev. A. J. S. Ard and J. W. H. King.

After ample refreshments the health of the visitors was toasted in coffee and chocolate. "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" and "Save the Soldiers" were very pleasant evening's exercises in the interest of I. O. F.

Seattle, Jan. 13.—The preliminary steaks are being taken by the enthusiastic yachtsmen of this city to build another yacht on the plans prepared by Ted Geary, to challenge for the Juniper trophy, now held by the Alexandra, of Vancouver, which defeated Geary's yacht, the Spirit, after having been once defeated by the same vessel. Geary thinks that the boat to be built according to his new designs will be very much superior to the Spirit.

The advantages possessed by Puget Sound and adjacent waters for yachting are appreciated at the present time by but few of our people. Mr. Crowninshield, the designer and yachtsman, who has been visiting the Sound for some weeks past, is enthusiastic in his praise of the waters for yachting. Both for the Corinthian yachtsmen, whose delight is to handle their own boats with amateur crews made up of their friends, and for the yachtsman whose aim is to command a sea-going vessel, there are opportunities in abundance here. There are cruises which can be undertaken by small vessels, handled by their owners, on which they can spend in comfort every day, indeed, which can be made without ever braving the open ocean and with possibility of anchoring in a safe harbor every night.

Interest in the yachting possibilities within the environs of Seattle is stimulated by the fact that the international regatta will be entertained here during the summer. The Elliott Bay Yacht Club will build a new club-house, in the month of May. The club approves an ordinance now before him, and will be in readiness for the interesting water events of next summer. The outlook for yachting in Seattle is bright and promising.

ALL-RED ROUTE. Australia Will Probably be Represented at Imperial Conference. Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 14.—The prospects of the consummation of the all-red route have been greatly improved by a conference between Dr. Coulter, Deputy Postmaster General of Canada; Andrew Fisher, Premier of Australia; and Mr. Thomas, Postmaster General of the Commonwealth. It is expected that the latter will agree that Australia shall be represented at the proposed meeting of the Federal Postal and Telegraphic governments interested, to work out the details of the scheme. Dr. Coulter reported that the British and New Zealand Ministers would adopt a favorable attitude. Mr. Thomas personally supports the scheme cordially. The conference will be resumed on the 13th.

THE LIMIT. Mrs. Mugins—My husband is a perfect crank. Mrs. Bugins—All husbands are, my dear. Mrs. Mugins—But fancy a man who complains that his husband's players are not as strong as those his mother used to make.—Stray Stories.

# PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS OF FORESTERS

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For "Good of the Order." Bro. Parkes, H. C., praised the exhibition of court work, and exhorted the younger members to what Mr. Parkes called "the spirit of H. S., who had installed the officers of Court Cariboo for eight consecutive years, and he hoped to see the growth of an efficient companion court, and spoke at length on the true fraternity of the lodge room.

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After ample refreshments the health of the visitors was toasted in coffee and chocolate. "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" and "Save the Soldiers" were very pleasant evening's exercises in the interest of I. O. F.

Seattle, Jan. 13.—The preliminary steaks are being taken by the enthusiastic yachtsmen of this city to build another yacht on the plans prepared by Ted Geary, to challenge for the Juniper trophy, now held by the Alexandra, of Vancouver, which defeated Geary's yacht, the Spirit, after having been once defeated by the same vessel. Geary thinks that the boat to be built according to his new designs will be very much superior to the Spirit.

The advantages possessed by Puget Sound and adjacent waters for yachting are appreciated at the present time by but few of our people. Mr. Crowninshield, the designer and yachtsman, who has been visiting the Sound for some weeks past, is enthusiastic in his praise of the waters for yachting. Both for the Corinthian yachtsmen, whose delight is to handle their own boats with amateur crews made up of their friends, and for the yachtsman whose aim is to command a sea-going vessel, there are opportunities in abundance here. There are cruises which can be undertaken by small vessels, handled by their owners, on which they can spend in comfort every day, indeed, which can be made without ever braving the open ocean and with possibility of anchoring in a safe harbor every night.

Interest in the yachting possibilities within the environs of Seattle is stimulated by the fact that the international regatta will be entertained here during the summer. The Elliott Bay Yacht Club will build a new club-house, in the month of May. The club approves an ordinance now before him, and will be in readiness for the interesting water events of next summer. The outlook for yachting in Seattle is bright and promising.

ALL-RED ROUTE. Australia Will Probably be Represented at Imperial Conference. Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 14.—The prospects of the consummation of the all-red route have been greatly improved by a conference between Dr. Coulter, Deputy Postmaster General of Canada; Andrew Fisher, Premier of Australia; and Mr. Thomas, Postmaster General of the Commonwealth. It is expected that the latter will agree that Australia shall be represented at the proposed meeting of the Federal Postal and Telegraphic governments interested, to work out the details of the scheme. Dr. Coulter reported that the British and New Zealand Ministers would adopt a favorable attitude. Mr. Thomas personally supports the scheme cordially. The conference will be resumed on the 13th.

THE LIMIT. Mrs. Mugins—My husband is a perfect crank. Mrs. Bugins—All husbands are, my dear. Mrs. Mugins—But fancy a man who complains that his husband's players are not as strong as those his mother used to make.—Stray Stories.

# METHODISTS TO HOLD JUBILEE METROPOLITAN CHURCH PLANS CELEBRATION

Rev. E. Robson, One of Pioneer Missionaries, Will Take Part.

(From Thursday's Daily.) The Methodist church will next month celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the church in this province. Preparations are being made locally by the Metropolitan church which has well earned the title of the mother church of British Columbia. Methodists, to duly observe the occasion, the original band of missionaries sent from the east to this province were Revs. Ephraim Evans D. D., Ebenezer Robson, Edward White and Arthur Browning. All landed here and with this as the distributing centre went to their allotted missions. Rev. A. Browning taking charge of the work here.

On February 10th, 1859 they landed in Victoria and on the 13th, of the same month the first Methodist services were held in the city.

Jubilee services will be held in the Metropolitan church on Sunday, February 7th, and 14th, and on February 10th, a grand jubilee dinner will be given by the men of the church to celebrate the actual day on which the pioneer band arrived. A noteworthy feature of the banquet will be the presence of the original band of four who made a long journey from Ontario via New York, Panama, and San Francisco in those early days. Dr. Robson has been invited to be present and will deliver an address. Other prominent and representative men will be asked to speak and the affair promises to be one of the most noteworthy in the history of the Methodist church in this city.

On Sunday, February 7th, Rev. Jno. Robson, B. A., president of conference, will preach in the morning and in the evening a special jubilee musical service will be held. On the 14th, Rev. W. H. Rees, D. D. of Seattle, pastor of the First Methodist church in that city, will preach both morning and evening. A circular letter is being sent to all the members and adherents of the church giving details of the celebration and asking for their presence and support. The joint boards of the church have the matter in hand and have unanimously resolved to ask the congregation for a jubilee thank-offering of \$4,000 for the church funds. A souvenir folder will be prepared and sent to every one interested.

W. C. Denny, of Rochester, and T. Wilkinson to Be Judges.

The Victoria Poultry and Pet Stock Association will hold the annual show this month at the Market building from January 26th to 29th. The rules and regulations governing entries of exhibits are being taken by the enthusiastic yachtsmen of this city to build another yacht on the plans prepared by Ted Geary, to challenge for the Juniper trophy, now held by the Alexandra, of Vancouver, which defeated Geary's yacht, the Spirit, after having been once defeated by the same vessel. Geary thinks that the boat to be built according to his new designs will be very much superior to the Spirit.

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