

In the same year John Flett, a cooper for years in the Company's service, came out with his young wife. Mr. Cridge afterwards became Bishop of the Reformed Church.

A few settlers coming in and taking up land.

1857

This was a momentous year for me, having married Cathrine Balfour Reid, second daughter of Captain Reid.

The end of the year the second white child in Victoria was born. The present mother of four children. We lived in a home built by me, called Glendale Cottage, afterwards known as the Badminton Club. Sold by me some years afterwards for \$40,000. Cost me about \$5,000.

At the end of this year gold was discovered on the banks of the Thompson River. Many of the sailors of the Company's vessels deserted for the mines. The news of this discovery spread near and far. The gold products of California had by this time become much less, which caused a keener rush to this country, consequently a gold fever set in the spring and summer of 1858.

1858

In the spring and summer of this year our small community of about 200 persons was augmented by an invasion of about thirty-five thousand persons, from the United States chiefly, but from many other countries. Many of them splendid, hardy men composed of miners, mechanics, doctors, lawyers, and many idlers. No houses, no food or supplies for so many people. Meantime they sought shelter as best they could. Fortunately it was summer time and they could camp in the open fields. Before many weeks passed vessels arrived from San Francisco with mining supplies, sawn timber, canvas, cotton, and food of all kinds. Soon there was a cotton or a canvas town—restaurants, shops and dwellings. Many buying town lots, then selling for \$50 and \$100, and building on them. Soon Victoria began to have the appearance of a town, and regular streets. A few of the working men of the Company had small log houses outside the Fort, which may have cost then about \$100 cash, and woke up in the morning to be offered \$5,000 and \$7,000 for their holdings. All readily sold their property, and the free use of strong drink was too much for them. In two or three years all were poor as before, and nearly all had died. They were principally French Canadians—first class workmen, if kept sober.