POTLACH FURNISHES STARTLING SENSATION

Alleged That Girl Was Sold To Highest Bidder At Alert Bay Festival

INDIANS ARE HOLDING CELEBRATION

Sale of "Coppers" Chief Feature of Present Week's Feast—Four Thousand Dollars for One

Vancouver, June 25.—The greatest potlach ever held in British Columbia is now in full swing at Alert Bay. Fully two thousand Indians, mostly of the Tsimpseans, are taking part, and the value of the goods that have been contributed by those attending must aggregate, say those who have seen the stacks of twenty-dollar gold pieces and bills of all denominations and piles of blankets and household goods, nearly $30,000. Indian girls of tender age have also been bartered to the wealthy chiefs of the neighboring districts.

The potlach commenced over a week ago, and will continue until next Saturday. There are many white people at Alert Bay at the present time, and the Indians have welcomed them to their dances, but few of them have been allowed to see the inner workings of the great gathering. The shore of the inlet is one mass of canoes belonging to the visiting Indians, a reasonable estimate placing the number at more than 500. Many of the dugouts contain twenty paddles, and are to be bartered away with the rest of the goods, the owners trusting to good luck and the good humor of their companions to get back to their homes when the potlach is ended.

The dances are the largest that have ever been seen on the coast, about five hundred Indians taking part at each performance. The men are all dressed in the finest of native clothes, and the riot of color is a scene that those who have witnessed will never forget.

Went to Highest Bidder

On Tuesday and Friday of last week there was a little celebration that no white people, not even the provincial constable, was allowed to witness. The story leaked out afterward. Two dusky maidens of the Tsimpseans were sold to the highest bidders among the Indians. Prices were high, and only the most wealthy of the natives could bid.

One little girl of nine, who had been brought from Rivers Inlet, tall, handsome and attractive even to the eyes of the white men who had seen her, was sold after spirited bidding for $1400. The two contestants for the little maiden were an old, grizzled Indian of fifty and a young man who was said to have come all the way from the Queen Charlottes to purchase a wife. There was a touch of romance in the fight of May and December for the handsome little girl, who seemed to fully realize her position. The old man had the longer purse and she was handed over to him. The potlach treasury was enriched to the amount of her value. He took her down to where his family was encamped, and her reception by them was so harsh that tears came to her eyes. Another girl about eighteen was sold to a young son of a chief. Her color showed that she had a little white blood in her veins. She seemed quite happy with her purchaser, and the sale was evidently prearranged, for there was not one bid against the $1000 offered by the young Siwash.

Old Jack, a patriarchal Indian well known to all the white people up the coast, was so impressed with the reasonable prices that he made tracks for his canoe and started for some secret reserve funds that he had cached, promising to return before the end of the potlach with sufficient funds to buy himself a young wife. One girl, who was probably about twelve years of age, was held in reserve until his return.

Important Sale of Brasses

Although a great amount of the wealth of the potlach is in coin or bills there are high stacks of blankets, canoes and even virgin gold in the treasury pile stacked up on the beach and jealously guarded by chosen Indians. There is a huge stack of peculiar shaped wooden gourds, studded with copper and brass, which the Indians use for exchange among themselves. They are worth about twenty-five cents each, and the pile is nearly 20 feet in height.

An interesting feature of the potlach has been the sale of what is known amongst the Indians as a "copper." This is composed of that metal, and is made in the form of a shield or breastplate on which are engraved hieroglyphics. The intrinsic value of the "copper" is perhaps five dollars, but by association and age the pieces have become exceedingly valuable, and thousands of dollars are paid for them. For instance, this year Chief Tom Harris, of the Kingcombe Inlet tribe has planned to give $4000 in cash for an exceedingly old "copper." It is very highly prized amongst the tribesmen, and it is expected that there will be keen rivalry when it is put up for auction. The man who gets it will be the most highly honored in the North in the coming year and for the succeeding seasons until he is compelled to sell.

A SALMON DEADLOCK

Canners and Fishermen Disagree on Price for Springs

New Westminster, June 24.—"No more spring salmon at less than five cents per pound," was the decision reached Saturday afternoon by the Fishermen's union, which met at Sunbury to discuss the action of the dealers in lowering the price of fish to four cents per pound.

With this decision reached, it is more than probable that no more spring salmon will be canned this season, though the retail dealers do not anticipate having to do without fish as there are a few ranches up the river who do not belong to the union and will keep on fishing. This will furnish the necessary supply for the local market. The cannery men announce their determination to stand firm and pay no more than four cents, having, it is claimed, lost money last year by canning at five cents a pound for fish brought in by tugs. They are willing to pay five cents should the fishermen land the fish at the canneries, but will not pay this price for fish gathered up by their tugs, as they claim it necessitates operating the boats for nothing.

It was decided at the fishermen's meeting Saturday to again approach the canners, but nothing has been done in that direction, and, as the men determined to catch no more fish if the canners did not accede to their demands, it is probable that they will put their nets away for this year, and await the open season for sockeyes, as they claim that there is no money in fishing for four cents a pound.

The canners also state that they will allow their canneries to remain idle sooner than pay the five cents demanded, so it is more than probable that following the action of the fishermen Saturday, no more canning will be done until the sockeyes start to run, when this industry will again open in full blast.

BEAR CAME TO SCHOOL

Trail Children Were Frightened by Bruin and Organized Hunt

Trail, B. C., June 24.—For a couple of weeks past a couple of bears have made life miserable for the teachers and scholars of the Trail public school. The bears were attracted to the vicinity of the school by the scraps of lunches thrown away by the children. Every day or two one or the other of the bruins would be seen by the scholars or some one else, and it was feared that some of the smaller children would be carried off by the animals. On Wednesday afternoon Mr. George Ross was out with his gun hoping the marauding animals would put in at appearance, and sure enough one did. As soon as the animal saw a man with a gun in his hands, it turned and ran up the side of Lookout Mountain as fast as its legs would allow it. Mr. Ross took a seventy-five-yard shot at the retreating animal and the bullet struck him in the back and went through his body, killing him almost instantly. Mr. Ross secured the pelt.

Hume Hotel Changes Hands.

Nelson, June 24.—J. Fred Hume on Saturday disposed of the Hume Hotel as a going concern to George P. Wells, secretary of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association and son of Mr. W. C. Wells. Possession will be taken on Dominion Day. Belville Tompkins, late of the Strathcona, will be the new manager. The consideration was about $50,000.

SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS

Francis Beri Pleads Guilty to Forgery at Vancouver

Vancouver, June 24.—"My wife said that I was to go to Honolulu or New York, or somewhere, and I just had to get the money to go."

The above was the unique excuse made in the police court this morning by Francis Beri, when asked why he had raised money on worthless cheques.

Francis passed the cheques one last year and one in February of this year. It was the latter that caused the police to be started after him. Diligent search failed to locate him and the police had almost given him up. Detective Andy Waddell went over to Victoria to bring back two men wanted for burglary and there he learned that Francis the penman had just been let out after serving a term of three months for raising money on "phoney" paper. When he came back all the force in Vancouver were instructed to keep their eyes open for Francis and sure enough Detective Scott having knowledge of his old haunts located him.

He pleaded guilty to both the local charges this morning and in extenuation had nothing to plead except the remarkable excuse given above.

He was sentenced to 18 months on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

REPORTED DISASTER ON THE SKEENA RIVER

Tug Sunk and Six Men Said To Have Been Drowned—Run Down and Killed

Vancouver, June 24.—The report reached here this evening that the tug Constance, of New Westminster, had foundered in the Skeena river, and that Captain Neilson and five of her crew were drowned. Most of those supposed to be drowned lived in New Westminster. The report came through the captain of the tug Eve, who said he heard it from the Phoenix cannery at Steveston. No confirmation can be obtained.

James Mowat, aged 25, was killed today while crawling under a C. P. R. freight train to cross the track. The car was struck by a shunter and the wheels rolled over him. He was very much mangled and died on reaching the hospital. A Japanese was also killed on Sunday by a shunting engine as he was walking down the track.

OKANAGAN COAL

Operators Believe Good Deposits Will Be Found

Renewed interest has been aroused in the coal deposits on Mission Creek by the re-location of them last week by W. G. Murray, a gentleman connected with one of the coal mining companies now operating in the Nichola Valley, where they own coal lands at a place called Merritt, says the Kelowna Courier. Mr. Murray has been connected with coal companies for several years and is sanguine as to the presence of a large body of coal on Mission Creek. He does not consider the former locators of the coal carried on their development work in the most advantageous manner, and he thinks it will not be exceedingly difficult to discover a large deposit of coal. He made no statement as to when exploration work will be commenced.

Sovereign Bank Stock

Toronto, June 24.—The first transactions in Sovereign Bank stock since the re-organization occurred today on the Toronto Exchange, when 115 was paid for a few scattered shares and the same price was bid for more.

Death of J. H. Phillips

Quebec, June 24.—J. H. Phillips, one of the best known hotel men in Canada, until a few days ago, manager of the Chateau Frontenac, died yesterday at the Hotel Dieu, and was buried in Mount Hermon cemetery, his remains being followed to their last resting place by a large number of friends.

Got Fair Wage Scale

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., June 24.—Forty dollars and fifty cents is pretty fair wages for volunteer soldiers for ten days' camp service, and yet six of the recruits in the army service corps actually signed the payroll yesterday for that amount. They were bakers and demanded the "fair wage" scale according to the government's stipulation regarding work done under government contract. The six helpers in this department were also paid munificently as compared with the recruits in the other corps. They got $1.50 per day. This is the first time in the history of the camp any such figure has been paid for the duty. The soldier-bakers claim that the corps couldn't have got bakers unless the union rate of wages had been guaranteed.

Insane from Horror.

Montreal, June 24.—Albert Houston, a Toronto engineer, arrived here Saturday en route from the Isthmus of Panama, where he met with an accident three months ago, which caused paralysis and unbalanced his mind. A section of the works gave way and threatened to cause great destruction and probably would have drowned 2,000 workmen. Houston sized up the situation at a glance and acted, meanwhile calling for help. It was hours before relief came and saved the situation, but it was too late to save Houston. He was taken away a physical wreck, with no hope of recovery. He screams at intervals as the memory of the awful sight of tumbling waters comes to his mind.

WRECK ON GREAT NORTHERN.

Passenger Train Meets With Mishap Near Everett.

New Westminster, June 24.—A smash up on the G. N. R. line between Everett and Seattle delayed the incoming Seattle train last night, causing it to arrive in this city about half an hour behind scheduled time. The train, which was a through passenger from the East, was slightly behind time and was travelling at a high rate of speed in the endeavor to catch up when the engine suddenly jumped the track.

The rate at which they were travelling jerked the baggage coach from the rails, and brought the rest of the train to a standstill. The baggage coach still remained on the ties, but the engine plunged down the side of the grade and fell over into a ditch. No other coaches were derailed, and beyond a shaking, the passengers are reported to have escaped without injury, as did also the engineer and fireman, both of whom were thrown off on the opposite side from which the engine fell.

The wrecking crew was at work when the Seattle train came along. No cause is ascribed for the accident, but the supposition is that it was due to a defective rail.

A VAST RAILWAY SCHEME.

United States Company to Build From Cardston to Fort McMurray.

Cardston, Alta., June 20.—American railroaders are beginning to realize the possibilities of the Canadian northwest and numerous plans have been prepared to cover the country with a network of lines between Winnipeg and the Pacific coast. The Northern Empire Railroad Co. is the latest aggregation of Americans organized for the purpose of building a railway into Canada. From the route already prepared it is evident this company has enormous capital at its back for it proposes to build a line some 2,000 miles in length through the wildest and most unknown country in western Canada. It will cross the international boundary near Cardston, Alberta, and from thence will run due north to Fort McMurray on the Athabasca river and en route tap the rich wheat lands of southern Alberta and in turn go through the coal country and, on the prospect of the oil discoveries in Athabasca proving valuable, make a bee line from Fort McMurray to Fort Vermillion, directly through that country in which several dozen parties of Americans are now boring for oil, gas and asphalt. The gigantic nature of the work becomes apparent upon leaving Fort Vermillion, for then the real troubles of the contractors begin.

J. B. T. Caron, an Ottawa solicitor, is acting for the applicants, and so far the names of the principals have been kept in the background, but it is the general belief the new company is a Northern Pacific branch, that company having been particularly anxious to get back into Canada ever since its lines in Manitoba were bought out by the Canadian Northern some six years ago.

Fruit Crop of Canada

Ottawa, June 24.—The small fruit crop of Canada will be light this year and the crop of larger fruit will be heavy. The fruit branch of the agricultural department says that the plum crop will be the largest on record. Indications are that the apple, pear, cherry and peach crop will be good. The apple crop in British Columbia is said to be assured.

Vancouver, June 24.—A contract which involves the deviation of two miles of the main line of the C.P.R. at Rogers Pass, the summit of the Selkirks, was awarded to Messrs. Macdonell & Gzowski, engineers and contractors of Vancouver. Work will be started just as soon as the contractors can place their equipment on the ground, and it is expected that the undertaking will be completed by December. The contract price of the work approaches the sum of $100,000.

FATALITY AT REVELSTOKE

Captain Bacher Instantly Killed While Fitting Guys on a Dredge

A terrible accident attended by fatal results occurred Friday morning on the dredge shortly after 11 o'clock, says the Revelstoke Mail-Herald. It appears that the dredge hands were engaged in taking off and fitting new steel guys to the iron frame crane on which the dipper shaft for dredging is operated. Capt. Bacher, W. J. Banting, F. Harris and S. Dale were working at the extreme end of the crane, which was supported by a tackle, the old guy wires having been previously removed, and had supported the whole weight of the crane on three turns of half inch steel wire rope which was passed round the crane head below the sheave, into which was hooked the block of the supporting tackle. This apparatus had been in position for nearly an hour and the men were at the moment of the accident engaged fitting the new steel guys. Without a moment's warning the crane head fell, the block and tackle being violently hurled back to the deck of the dredge. Capt. Bacher was flung 6-ft. back and fell head downwards, half under water between the A frame of the crane, striking his head violently against it, smashing in his jaw and chin, causing almost instant death.

RIFLES ARRIVE

Civilian Association Now Has Some Guns of Superior Make

New Westminster, June 22.—The first of the rifles ordered for the use of the members of the newly formed civilian rifle association of this city arrived yesterday. It is probable that they will receive their first try out at the Brownsville ranges today.

The consignment included half a dozen rifles, only six of the members of the association having so far seen fit to go to the expense of ordering their own guns. They are splendid weapons, and are warranted to fire five thousand rounds of service ammunition without deterioration in their truth.

Fishermen Object to Low Prices

New Westminster, June 22.—The fishermen object to the attempt which has been made by the dealers of this city to reduce the price of fish to four cents a pound. Five cents is the price the fishermen have been getting, and they intend to make a strong effort to have it remain at that figure.

Assistant Principal Resigns

New Westminster, June 22.—At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Trustees, the resignation of George T. Crowder, assistant principal in the Boys' Central School, was received. The date of the closing of the schools for the summer vacation was set at June 28.

TRAM LINE TO EBURNE.

Work of Grading To Be Started Soon From New Westminster.

Vancouver June 24.—Just as soon as certain uncompleted arrangements in connection with the securing of right-of-way along the route of the electric railway line between New Westminster and Eburne are concluded—which will probably be next week—the work of grading will be started.

LARGE SAWMILL PLANT.

Will Be Erected on the North Arm of Fraser River.

Vancouver, June 24.—A company has just been formed for the purpose of erecting a large sawmill plant of the most modern design on the North Arm of the Fraser river, and convenient to Eburne village. The company will be known as the North Arm Lumber Company, Limited. The company is capitalized at $150,000, in shares of $100 each. It is understood the majority of the stock has already been subscribed for.

The construction of the plant will be started immediately and rushed to completion. It is understood the head office of the company will be located in Vancouver.

Longshoremen Dissatisfied.

Montreal, June 25.—Longshoremen have written to the Minister of Labor that they will not be bound by the decision of the conciliation board, which practically gave them all they asked.

Colored Preacher Arrested.

Brantford, June 25.—Rev. G. Taylor, of Woodstock, member and delegate of the B. M. E. colored conference assembled in this city, is under arrest in Montreal. In his official capacity, it is alleged, he collected certain funds for which he did not account.

Ontario Opposition Lader.

Brockville, June 25.—Geo. P. Graham who returned from the west on Saturday night had his attention called to a news item slating him for a position in the Dominion government. He said: "I'm too busy to talk about it, but I assure you the whole thing is news to me."

LUMBERMEN MAY BE PROCEEDED AGAINST

Deputy Attorney-General of Alberta Makes Statement on Subject

Calgary, Alta., June 21.—S. B. Woods deputy attorney-general of the province, discussing the alleged lumber combine, said that some misconception existed as to the attitude and duty of the Dominion government in such matters. The house of commons had at the instance of one of its members appointed a committee to investigate the charge that combine existed. That committee had taken a lot of evidence and had reported that in its opinion an unlawful combination did exist. At this point, said Mr. Woods, the relation of the Dominion government to the matter ceased. The evidence had been printed and an unrevised copy of it had recently been received by him from Ottawa, but Ottawa could do no more. The deputy attorney-general expressed the opinion that the attitude of Hon. A. B. Aylesworth to the question had been the only one open for him to take. The administration of the criminal law was in the hands of the province, and it was through the criminal code that any unlawful combination must be attacked. Mr. Aylesworth had said that the matter was now entirely in the hands of the provincial authorities and in this he was undoubtedly right.

BEGGING PAYS WELL.

London, June 25.—Begging has long been illegal in London, and offenders are liable to various terms of imprisonment. Nevertheless, thousands in London evade the law and live in comfortable idleness on the weak workers. The annual report of the London Mendicant society just issued, states that it probably is no exaggeration to say that more than $500,000 is annually given to beggars in the streets of London, and that probably the average beggar earns more than the average workingman. The society, which exists to investigate the begging business, to help deserving cases and to assist in punishing incorrigibles, possesses 79,320 records of street beggars.

FIFTY THOUSAND TONS

Largest Vessel on Any Ocean for the Hamburg-American Line

A Kiel dispatch says the Hamburg-American line, through its managing director, Herr Ballin, last week gave an order to the Harlan-Wolff firm of Belfast for a 50,000 ton steamship. The ship will be the largest vessel afloat, surpassing even the big Cunard liners Lusitiana and Mauritaunia.

Keep the cultivators moving in the corn and potato field. It is easier to keep weeds down than to kill half-grown ones. As the season advances make the cultivations shallower until they are nothing but a surface stirring.

PRINCE FUSHIMI LEAVES FOR HOME

Sailed From Esquimalt Tuesday on Board British Cruiser Monmouth

LEAVES MONEY FOR CHARITIES

Fifty Pounds to Be Divided in Victoria —Warship Will Be Met by Japanese Fleet

With the golden chrysanthemum on a red-bordered field of white silk, the Kwozoku-ki, or flag of princes of the blood of Japan, flying at her mainmast, H. M. first class cruiser Monmouth sailed from Esquimalt harbor shortly after noon Tuesday with H. I. H. Prince Fushimi and staff on board, bound for Yokohama, 4,200 miles away. From the stern trailed the white ensign of Britain, the flag under which the Japanese prince has traveled around the two hemispheres. As the cruiser moved off the prince and his party stood on the awninged decks waving their hats.

At 11 a.m. Tuesday morning the prince and his suite, attended by Lieut. Governor Dunsmuir, Miles W. Lampson, M. C. V. O. of the British foreign office; Capt. D. O. C. Newton, A. D. C., representing the governor-general; Joseph Pope, C. M. G., D. S. O., representing the Dominion government, and W. R. Baker, representing the C. P. R., were driven to the naval yard at Esquimalt in carriages. The orders for a guard of honor issued to the Fifth Regiment C. A. had been cancelled and a guard composed of bluejackets of H. M. S. Monmouth was at the naval wharf. Many of the local Japanese were also on the wharf shouting "Sayonara," Japanese farewell, literally, "If it must be." The prince, as usual, received the acclaim silently, it being considered infra dig to respond otherwise than by a nod or smile. The various officials bade the parting guest of the Dominion farewell, and he embarked, while the guard saluted, in the waiting launch of the cruiser, which started immediately for the warship's side. As the prince stepped from the launch upon the accommodation ladder the national flag of Japan came down from the masthead and in its stead floated the personal flag, the Kwozoku-ki, of his highness. He was received by Capt. Tuke and officers on the quarter deck and immediately went below.

At 1.20 p.m. the screws began to revolve and the cruiser glided away, smoke curling from the three stacks as she cut through the water leaving a foaming wake.

Off Yokohama about 200 miles, about two weeks hence, a wireless telegram will be ticked by the torpedo lieutenant to a waiting Japanese admiral at Yokosuka naval yard, and from Tokio bay a big squadron of Japanese war craft will steam out to meet the British cruiser. With booming of cannon from many battleships, cruisers and gunboats, the Monmouth will be welcomed and the Japanese vessels will range on either side in three lines to convoy the British cruiser that carried a Japanese prince across the Pacific ocean to Tokio bay, where the debarkation will take place in the roadstead off Yokohama.

Before leaving Victoria Prince Fushimi left some moneys to be devoted to charities. Yesterday Mayor Morley received the following telegram from Ottawa in this regard:

"Mayor of Victoria—Am desired by the governor-general to inform you that His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimi has been kind enough to leave £50 with his excellency for distribution among the charitable institutions of your city. This amount will be placed to your credit by the Bank of Montreal. When distributed kindly report particulars so that his excellency can inform his imperial highness. Alfred F. Slade, private secretary."

Rubber Monopoly.

Montreal, June 25.—News has leaked out that the U. S. Rubber company has practically a monopoly of the rubber manufacturing trade of the United States, has secured a controlling interest in the Canadian Consolidated Rubber company, which will practically give the new amalgamation a mmonopoly of the rubber anufacturing trade of Canada.

THE WRECKERS

Japanese Divers Fishing Cargo From Sunken Liner Dakota

Late advices from Yokohama state that Yamishima, a Japanese salvage agent, has been successful in salving a large quantity of general freight from the cargo of the Dakota. In addition to the cargo salved immediately following the disaster, Yamishima has continued to work on the vessel, using divers, and reports that three lots of freight have been recovered and sold.

The third lot recovered by Yamishima consisted of 800 bales of raw cotton, 1,400 pieces of lead and 1,400 bags of flour, valued in all at 180,000 $en. Although the vessel has broken and sunk into deeper water the work is still carried on with divers when the weather will permit. The continued roughness of the past few weeks has prevented the salving work and it is believed that but little more will be recovered.

KAISER CHATS ON SPORTS

Would Establish Permanent Greek Stadium in the Grunewald

Berlin, June 25.—Emperor William, who, among his numerous claims to fame, is responsible for the growing love of sport of all kinds among the German people, has just lent his powerful influence to the project for the erection of a permanent Greek athletic stadium in the Grunewald Forest, on the outskirts of Berlin.

In speaking at the Hoppegarten races this week to the delegation of sportsmen who had launched the stadium enterprise, the emperor said:

"The maintenance of the stadium will contribute enormously to the popularization of sport among us.

"It is highly necessary in these days of relentless energy and the daily increasing struggle for existence that the human race should, more than in the past, find relaxation in healthful sport.

"Many outdoor pastimes are, in my judgment, the best means of developing freshness and power of resistance among our youths, thus fitting them for the battle of real life. Especially strenuous mental workers and students have in sport a highly valuable and required change of occupation."

Some of Heinz' 57s

Spiced Pickles, per bottle 25c. Apple Butter, per bottle . 40c.
Peanut Butter, " 35c. India Relish, " . 40c.
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SPLENDID SARDINES in Pure Olive Oil Two Tins . . . . . 25c.

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Raincoats

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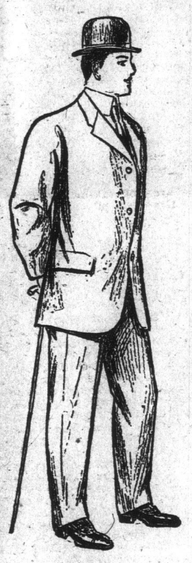

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