

May 10th, 1898.

THERE is war between Spain and the United States, but as THE WAWA does not mix very much into politics, it can not be expected to say much about this war.

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There is no local news, either, of great importance to our readers, unless it be of any use recording the many parties crossing the country from all directions bound for "the Klondike." Hundreds of horses and mules are driven towards Ashcroft and other northern parts of the country, all bound for the gold-fields.

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The old Indians of Kamloops are disappearing from the scenes of this world one after another. Last year we had to record the death of Bernard, Old Thomas, Jovial, Daniel, and Gabriel well-known all over the district. The second week after Easter came the turn of Celestin, the peaceable old friend of all who knew him. R.I.P.

Missionary Work Among the Indians.

A summary inquiry into the organization of the Indian camps of British Columbia will result in discovering that each camp or small band recognizes a chief, whom they are supposed to obey. In most places there are, besides the chief, a "captain" and some "watchmen," proportioned in number to the importance of the reserve to which they are attached. The chief's dignity is rather hereditary, although at present the chief is elected by the votes of the band. In olden times, before the coming of the "whites," there were greater and smaller chiefs, a whole tribe recognizing

the authority of the most influential chief in case of war with the neighboring tribes. The chief's power and influence are now very much reduced, and amount to nearly nothing in the camps of the infidels. But where the influence of Christianity has been experienced, the chief has and will have considerable authority over his band, and is a great help to the Missionary in morality and good order among his people.

The captain's duties are to second the chief, to carry his orders to the members of the band, and to see that they are put into execution. He also replaces the chief, when absent, and acts as chief magistrate for redressing and punishing offences. In some places the chief is careless, or lives himself disorderly. Then the captain, if he is a man of moral strength, leads the band instead, and even, notwithstanding the chief, he is then acting chief without having the name. A great deal depends, therefore, upon the choice of good captains in the different Indian camps. As a rule, the band itself appoints its captain and chooses the most influential after the chief, and the Missionary has but to approve of the choice. In some instances, though, the Missionary chooses the captain and has him elected or approved by the band.

The "watchmen" are the Indian's policemen, and a number of them are appointed Indian policemen by the agents of the government. The Indians expect a great deal from their watchmen, sometimes more than they can do. The watchmen's duties are to gather the Indians for the meetings, either to the meeting-house or into the church, and they have to go after those even