

PORT SIMPSON NOTES.

By REV. S. S. OSTERHOUT.

I am glad to state that this mission is progressing and keeping time with matters in general along the Coast. Secular and civil matters on the Reserve are managed by an elected council, and so well in hand is their business that immorality, vice, and crime are all but obliterated. At the present (Deer. 1st.) the rate payers are busy with their statute labour, repairing the streets; and making a general survey of the village. Old streets are being closed up and new ones opened, so that in the future Port Simpson will present even a more modern appearance than it does at present. Arrangements have been made to illuminate the streets, and mission church, with acetylene gas. I find the Indians tractable and obliging, and am greatly encouraged in my endeavours to teach them. Old and young alike take an interest in learning the Word of God, the doctrine and the enterprises of the Christian Church.

We are glad to report that Dr. Bolton has returned from the East, and very sorry to record that during his absence the death rate was very high, numbering 15. This clearly demonstrates the fact that medical missionaries are indispensable. We were very glad to have the service of Dr. Rush for a week or 10 days when en route for his mission on the Naas. He did excellent work and his careful conscientious services were very much appreciated by the Indians. Mrs. Shaw whom we very soon learned to appreciate as a Christian worker joined the Doctor and his good wife; we bespeak for this trio a very happy and useful career on our interesting mission at the Naas.

The vacancy created by the resignation of Miss Beavis as sewing teacher from the staff of the girl's home at Port Simpson, has been refilled by the appointment of Miss Elliot lately from Ontario.

It is reported that gold-bearing quartz of more than ordinary richness has been discovered on Finlayson's Island adjacent to the harbour on the reserve.

The boy's home is being remodeled and the lumber from the old mission house has been utilized in enlarging.

Miss Blanchard of Athens Ontario is out visiting her sister Mrs. Bolton at the Hospital.

Dr. Bolton is preparing to build a residence near the Hospital so that the whole of the present building may be utilized for Hospital purposes.

Miss Spence has returned after her furlough in the East and with her accustomed zeal is cheerfully pursuing her duties.

We have had several fires but owing to the efficiency of the fire department, the hard master was kept in check. The fire department contemplates the purchase of a 40 man-power engine, and are now negotiating.

The Ship "Columbia" 8000 tons a three master, owned by a Seattle firm, went on the rocks about 15 miles North of Port Simpson, two weeks ago. She first struck on the rocks off Tongas, but having escaped this crashed on the shore at the point above referred to. Steps are being taken to save the donkey engines, and certain other small machinery.

A canoe of four Kinkolith Indians went to Port Chester with furs to trade for provisions. Having obtained provisions, and loaded their canoe heavily, they started for the Naas. Though six or seven weeks have elapsed nothing has been heard of them. John Poole reports, that on his way from Port Chester recently, he saw evidences of shipwreck, broken boxes and boards from the bottom of the canoe were seen washed up ashore where the high tide had left them.

Last week a company of three white men, prospectors, including a doctor, secured Paul Benson's schooner. The following Saturday having made a trial trip they returned and cast anchor near the wharf. Owing to the violence of the gale she parted her ropes and went adrift, also wrecking very much in the same place as the ship referred to above. The white men were able to save themselves but nothing else. They subsisted on mussels for 8 days. Joshua Wells out on a sealing expedition found them all but famished. He called for them till he returned.