

TELLS OF VICTORIA IN EARLY DAYS

Mr. C. McKay Smith was Participant in Rush to Cariboo—History of Local Newspapers

"Speaking of the sales price of newspapers," said a resident of Victoria, the other day, when the conversation drifted around to the recent reduction of the price of certain eastern newspapers to one cent, "I once paid \$1.50 for a copy of the Colonist. It was in 1861 and I was hunting for gold in the Klondike."

The speaker was one of the most interesting of old time Victorians. He is in his 88th year now but he is still active mentally and physically. He was the first post-office newspaper in the country and was editor of a daily newspaper in Victoria for fourteen years at a time when the city boasted three dailies. He was also the first man to put up canned fish in British Columbia. The man was Mr. C. McKay Smith, brother of the late Amor de Cosmos, founder of The Colonist and prominent in public life here years ago.

The story of Mr. Smith's career is full of interest. Now that he is no longer connected actively with business affairs he is devoting a good deal of time to writing down his reminiscences of early times on the Pacific coast. Mr. Smith was born at Windsor, N. S., April 25, 1825, and was educated there. He learned the mechanic's trade and was proficient in it and had also had some experience of general trading before the gold excitement in California attracted him. He was thirty years of age when he landed on the Golden West, February 15, 1854. He found San Francisco a lot of old shanties, a miserable place. Mr. Smith went right at the gold hunting and was moderately successful. He was the manager of a company that put in the most ambitious piece of flume work in the country at that time. This big flume was constructed on the Feather River and was three quarters of a mile long, seven feet high and six feet deep. Alongside was a smaller flume which was used to drive fourteen sets of pumps. The work cost about \$300,000 and the company took out in clean-ups about \$500,000 but as the stock was divided rather widely no one made any money to speak of.

First Post Office
In 1858, when the fame of the Fraser river had set the old desire throbbing in the hearts of disconsolate and disillusioned "Forty-Niners," Mr. Smith came to Victoria and started to "make a stake." He found employment as an architect and, curiously enough, his first task was the planning and erection of the first customs house and post office for the Canadian West coast. These consisted of two small wooden buildings and they stood on the site now known as the Old Post Office site. Mr. Smith made \$1,000 in nine months after he struck Victoria and as it seemed to be best prospecting and mining he remained in the city and continued to work for the government. While he was superintendent of public works for the colonial government and during the same period he worked for Colonel Goswami, an iron horse in James Bay which is still standing on Superior street.

In 1861 Mr. Smith joined the rush to the Cariboo which at that time held the promise of the "Where Every Body Gets It." He left Victoria in May and returned in September after having had good luck and finding prices at that time ruinously high. At that time the Cariboo was the great excitement of the day. The discovery of the Williams Creek was found shortly after he left. Gold was the thing in those times, all other minerals were passed by. Thus, when in 1863 Mr. Smith headed an exploring expedition to the Queen Charlotte Islands, the immense gold showings were turned down. The party sought gold and returned without finding any promising indications. In 1864 Mr. Smith and a man named Bluff, long since dead, found gold at Leech river after the first strike had been made in that district and for a time they made \$5 a day with a rocker. Mr. Smith and his brother Amor de Cosmos, with three others, all dead now save Mr. Smith, went to the Kootenay country and there took up the first claim ever staked in that country, a ledge on the side of Kootenay Lake rich in silver galena. Later they abandoned it owing to the lack of transportation at that time, and years afterwards an American company took up the same ledge and called it the Blue Bell and did well with it.

Founded the Colonist
In the same year which brought Mr. Smith to Victoria and started him in business as a contractor, the contractor in the year 1858—his brother Amor de Cosmos founded a newspaper in Victoria and launched it forth vigorously and successfully. It was called The British Colonist and although the address in the caption has been dropped the Colonist of today is the same newspaper with the changes of uninterrupted evolution incorporated. Mr. de Cosmos sold The British Colonist when he went actively into politics in 1862, but in the succeeding years he discovered that a newspaper was a handy thing to have even in political life and in 1870 he founded a second paper, The Standard. Mr. de Cosmos edited this paper himself for three years and then turned it over to his partner, Mr. Smith, who was associated with a Mr. T. H. Long. A few years later Mr. Smith bought out the interest of Mr. Long and for fourteen years he edited The Standard, editing a daily newspaper in Victoria. In those days of "rip-snorting" leaders, which fairly bristled with shrewd argument and nice composition. Then he would go out

into the highways and byways and wax enthusiastic when he "learned" or was "advised" that some prominent citizen was seriously thinking of painting his hat coop. Before the editor would seek to add a few names to his subscription list or separate a delinquent from a payment on account of what he owed for back subscription. Then he would rush back to the office and sweat and fume until a new paper was born.

During his experience on The Standard Mr. Smith had to fight a strike of printers. The wages paid in those days were from \$15 to \$20 a week and the Standard's men went out because Mr. Smith refused to discharge a non-union man who had come to work in the office. Things looked bad for The Standard at the end of the week's notice given by the striking printers, but when the final day came around Mr. Smith paid the men off and told them to go. Then he sent to a local hotel where he had six men from Olympia in hiding for two days and set them to work as strike-breakers.

The Standard was sold out in 1885 to parties who were not sufficiently acquainted with the science of newspaper management and the property eventually went to pieces. Meantime The Times had been started and was running as a daily and survives to this day.

Canned Fish Trade
Mr. Smith was the first man to put up canned fish for export in this country. He had A. & W. Wilson, a firm which is still doing business, on Broad street, turn out a quantity of two-pound tins and he rented an old building on the waterfront which used to stand just below the present post-office, adjoining Drake's coal wharf. Mr. Smith canned fresh halibut and filled 200 cases for the first shipment. Mr. Francis, the American consul inspected the shipment before it left here, the idea being to obviate the necessity of having it inspected on the other side. However, before the shipment went off fifty cases were disposed of in Victoria. Of the remaining 150, fifty were sold in Portland and the other 100 went to San Francisco where the big profits were looked for. However, the inspectors at San Francisco paid no attention whatsoever to Mr. Francis' certificate. They took one box out of each case and opened it for examination to make sure that it did not contain opium instead of halibut. They also charged a duty of thirty-five per cent. Deducting those and other expenses Mr. Smith decided not to continue in the halibut export trade.

He did decide, however, to try shipping fresh fish in ice to the San Francisco market. The Indians were bringing plenty of halibut to Victoria at three cents a pound and the same fish was selling in Frisco at fifty cents a pound. Mr. Smith got a schooner and loaded 25 tons of fresh halibut. But he had not counted on the neat little combine the Frisco fish dealers put up on him. When his schooner arrived in Frisco there was no offer for his fish until they were on the point of spoiling and then he sold at the buyers' price. He cleared \$18 on the shipment and retired from the fresh fish business.

Life in the West
Commenting on the vast difference between community life in the American and community life in the Canadian west in the titles Mr. Smith said the other day that it was simply glorious to reach Victoria and feel free to sleep at night without having an infant cannon under the pillow and to be able to walk the streets without packing a six-shooter all the time. "It was nothing to see a man killed in those days in California," said Mr. Smith. "Killings were common in the rough camps and everyone, practically, went armed. It was always wise to keep your own counsel and mind your own business and there was a peculiar code in vogue which one did well to learn and adhere to. I remember one beautiful Sunday morning in Sonora. It was very early and I was walking down the small street taking in the glorious sunshine and the Sabbath calm. The town was apparently asleep. Suddenly, right before me, three men rushed from the door of a cabin. One man was in advance of the other two. When they were some distance apart all three pulled guns and began firing, the first man against the latter two. At each crack of the revolvers they would take a step towards one another. They fired constantly and kept moving closer and closer together. The shots at that hour drew a crowd in no time and we all stood about and watched. It was against the code to interfere in such an affair. The men must be left alone to shoot it out. Presently one of the pair of men dropped and lay quiet. The other two were very close together and it seemed that they must both be killed or empty their guns. They fired together what proved to be their last shots, and both dropped. The crowd held back to await the finish. Eventually one of the men raised himself on his hands and got his knife. With this in hand he began to crawl towards his fallen opponent. As he approached the second man saw him coming and made a great effort to defend himself. He too found his knife. In a second they had dragged themselves together and there, dying, they literally hacked one another to pieces. That was a sample of the American side."

Portrait of Cervantes
MADRID, July 1.—Great interest has been aroused in literary and artistic circles by the discovery of an authentic portrait of Cervantes, painted in 1660 by Juan de Jauregui, as he is now known. The discovery was made by a professor at Niedo, who found an old painting on a panel, which, when cleaned, showed the signature of de Jauregui under a portrait of the author of "Don Quixote." The great writer's features are wholly different from those portrayed in his known portraits. The picture will be presented to the Spanish academy.

The people of the Okanagan assembled from all parts of the district last week to honor with a complimentary banquet Mr. and Mrs. Fortune, the oldest pioneers of the district, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of their arrival.

\$19.00 CAPE FOR \$5.00
We've just this one only, in navy blue. Was marked to sell at \$19.00 but it goes now for **\$5.00**



TWO-PIECE HOUSE DRESSES
In all colors and striped effects. Regular up to \$3.75 for **\$1.50**

The July Sale Gong Has Sounded

—and listen for the echo. This is the advertisement hundreds of Victoria ladies have been waiting for. Rather a large ad. and still far too small to hold all the good items that have been marked for the JULY SALE.

Say it over and over again to yourself today: "I am going to shop at Campbell's tomorrow." Your neighbor will be coming too, and her neighbor and practically everybody who sees this advertisement.

Great Offering in Women's Suits

—And not one but what is a beautiful style for Summer wear—creations of splendid materials—examples of the very best designing and finishing.

SUITS UP TO \$37.50 FOR \$9.00
Six Suits only, regular values to as high as \$37.50. Colors are green, black and white, mauve and wisteria. Your choice for **\$5.00**

SUITS UP TO \$37.50 FOR \$9.00
There are just nine of these, in navy blue, green, old rose and striped effects, including three Rajah silks in navy blue. Your choice for **\$9.00**

SUITS UP TO \$62.50 FOR \$10.00
This certainly is a magnificent lot. Three white serges with black or white stripes. Others are black, grey, fawn, reseda. Your choice for just **\$10.00**

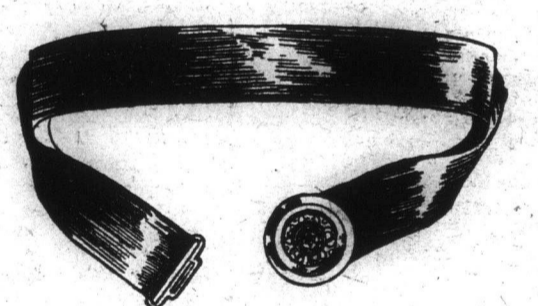
Gloves

Ladies Lisle Silk and Silk Net Gloves. Regular 50c for **25c**

Ladies' Super-silk Lisle and Suede Lisle, all shades. Regular 75c. Sale Price **25c**

Double Tipped Silk Gloves, all colors. Regular \$1.25. Sale Price **50c**
Regular 75c. Sale Price **25c**

Ladies' Elbow Length Kid Gloves, 6 button, sizes, 6/4, 6 1/2 and 6 3/4. Regular \$1.75. Sale Price **75c**



Silk Belts

In all colors. Values up to \$1.75. Sale Price **15c**

Parasols

Silk Parasols, trimmed with chiffon and lace. Values up to \$5.00. Sale Price **\$1.75**



Corsets

Odd Lines of Corsets. Regular values up to \$4.50. Sale Price **\$1.25**

La Vida Corsets, up to \$6.25. Sale Price is **\$2.75**

Ladies' Hygienic Waists, large size. Reg. \$1.25. Sale Price **50c**

Odd Lines of Children's Hygienic Waists, 7 to 12 years. Reg. 75c. Sale Price **25c**

Waists and Blouses

White Lawn Blouses with embroidered fronts. Excellent line. Reg. \$1.00 for **50c**
Reg. \$1.50 for **\$1.00**
Reg. \$2.25 for **\$1.25**
Reg. \$2.50 for **\$1.75**
Reg. \$3.25 for **\$2.50**
Reg. \$3.50 for **\$2.75**
And others reduced proportionately.



Lingerie Dresses

White Lingerie Dresses phenomenally reduced. Handsomely trimmed with embroidery and laces. Regular \$3.50 for **\$2.50**
Regular \$4.25 for **\$3.50**
Regular \$5.50 and \$6.50 for **\$4.50**
Regular \$7.50 and \$7.25 for **\$5.75**
Regular \$8.75 for **\$6.75**

THREE EXTRA SPECIALS IN DRESSES
One very handsomely embroidered. Regular \$25.00. Sale Price **\$10.00**
One White Linen Dress with beautiful insertion. Regular \$25.00, for **\$10.00**
Two White Repp Dresses and one sky. Regular \$12.50. Sale Price **\$5.00**

For The Kiddies

Children's Embroidered Hats and Bonnets. Regular \$1.00 Sale Price, **35c**

Children's Silk Bonnets and Hats and Embroidered Hats and Bonnets. Regular up to \$2.50. Sale Price **75c**

Children's White Dresses. 14 only Children's White Lawn Dresses, 2 to 8 years, slightly soiled. Regular up to \$6.75. Sale Price **\$1.25**

Misses' Spotted Muslin Dresses, 10 to 14 years. Regular \$4.25. Sale Price, **\$1.00**

Knit Underwear

Ladies' Cotton Vests, no sleeves, short sleeves and long sleeves. Sale prices, 25c, 20c, 15c, 2 for 25c, and **10c**

Fancy Silk Vests, lace yoke, white, pink and sky. Regular \$1.75. Sale price **\$1.00**

Ribbed Silk Vests, lace trimmed. Regular \$2.25, for **\$1.25**
Regular \$2.75, for **\$1.75**

Hosiery

Ladies' Cotton Hose, Regular 30c. Sale price— **20c**

Ladies' Cotton Hose, cashmere and Balbriggan feet. Regular 35c. Sale price **25c**

Ladies' Black Cashmere Hose, lace ankle. Regular 60c. Sale price **35c**

Silk Lace Lisle Hose, in all shades. Regular 50c. Sale price, 3 pairs for \$1.00, or per pair **35c**

Ladies' Spun Silk Hose, in black. Regular \$2.75. Sale price **\$1.25**

Spun Silk Hose, in colors. Regular \$1.25. Sale price **75c**

Great Saving on Dresses

Great indeed is the saving you can make here on Dresses. They are principally in Venetian and Panama Cloths.

Dresses in black, blue, green and sky. Regular \$14—for **\$10.00**

Dresses in black, green, tan and cadet, Regular \$15—for **\$11.50**

12 Dresses—Sicilian—in blue, brown, mauve and black, Regular \$8.50. Sale price **\$4.50**

2 Extra Specials in Dresses—one blue and the other green. Regular \$32.50 and \$35.00. Special price— **\$10.00**

One each of black, rose and green. Regular \$30 and \$27.50. Special sale price **\$15.00**

