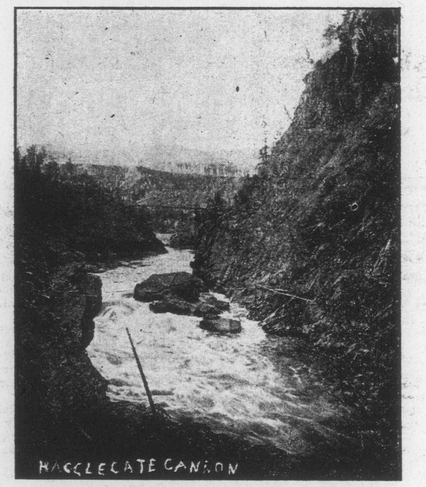
Two Hundred Miles Up the Skeena

A trip replete with incidents of greatest interest to a tourist was that completed by W. F. Best, a local assayer, who returned a few days ago from a trip 200 miles up the Skeena. Mr. Best made the trip in order to examine some coal measures on the upper part of the river and made some observations en route which will be of interest to the general reader.

A good deal of the country, he says, has been taken up by local people, including missionaries, but on the whole the country has been little prospected. Going up the river there was one mountain which impressed him as particularly rich. It was full of mineral veins, and Mr. Best says that he would like to have done some exploring on it. He found coal croppings at different places above Hazelton. Twelve square miles of the district has been staked off, but the surface seams were narrow and much disturbed by folding. Samples of the coal were tested. It was used in camp, and Mr. Best says it burned well. It is intended that some development work will be done on a number of claims this winter. According to the just-returned assayer, however, workable seams will not be located until the diamond drill is introduced.

On the bench lands excellent feed for



HAGGLEGATE CANYON—SKEENA RIVER.

horses and cattle exists. Wild hay is cut on the meadows, stacked and used in winter; in summer animals are allowed to care for themselves. As a fruit growing district, Mr. Best speaks of the country having a good future. The few trees planted by the missionaries produce excellent apples and pears, and the industry, he thinks, should be encouraged. Some good fruit trees sent to the missionaries, with directions to have them distributed among the steady, industrious natives and other settlers, would, he believes, be the means of putting the industry on a starting basis in the Upper Skeena.

Continuing, Mr. Best said: 'At a point just below Hazelton settlers, at the head of whom is Mr. Tomlinson, have done a great deal to show what can be done in the way of fruit raising and vegetable growing. The Upper Skeena has a climate almost identical with that of the famous Annapolis valley in Nova Scotia. The absence of winds in the valley would prevent the blossoms and fruit from falling off and the frost of winter would prove as beneficial as in Nova Scotia, where the fruit is grown in such luxuriance.

"The interior Indians are mostly industrious, hard-working men, who have renounced their savage ways of life and are anxious and willing to work. Some have done a little farming already and if encouraged by the government would be useful citizens. A field of oats, fit to cut, was seen near an Indian house just below Hazelton, while fields of both wheat and oats, mangolds, turnips and potatoes are grown as well. Potatoes are of such quality that shipments of them are sent from time to time to Victoria and are used by the Hudson's Bay Company officials. In some sections of the district settlers keep cows, and in this connection an amusing story is told. So unaccustomed are the natives to having stock around them that the cows they keep are never milked. They are turned loose and are allowed to roam at large. Instead of using their milk the Indians continue to buy it canned. This they are using, too, and they don't think of anything better.

"A great many people are looking over the country around Hazelton and the Buckley valley, with a view to settlement, and there is a good deal of building in progress in the village itself. The old Hudson's Bay fort is shortly to be removed and a large structure comparable with that erected on the lower part of the river by Mr. Cunningham will be built."

Mr. Best reports same discontent existing among the Indians at Kishpiax on account of white men having taken up land near points on the river where the natives have fish banks, and where for many generations certain families have prepared the smoked salmon which forms such an importane item in the winter's diet.

The Kishpiax Indian reserve is much too small for the Indian population, which is now placed at 400. In some parts of the province much smaller villages have larger reserves, and the government, Mr. Best thinks, would do well to prevent discontent and perhaps bloodshed by looking into the matter at once.

"During my visit," said Mr. Best, two Indians came to the Kishpiax missionary complaining of their fishing camps and other property having been fenced in by white men, and only the promise of justice from the department induced the natives to remain quiet. Several Indians are anxious to leave the reserve and take up land under the same conditions as those granted to white settlers, and the law might be amended so as to allow these men to do so, if they complied with certain conditions.

"Unlike most other bands of Indians, the Kishpiax people have no timber reserve from which to cut firewood, and no fishing reserve. One Indian of that village who had spent $300 in improvements on a piece of wild meadow land has ceased his efforts, for the present at least, because white settlers are now roaming over the Skeena and Buckley valley, seeking locations where they can most easily begin farming operations.

"The Indian agents who are supposed to look after the welfare of the natives are obliged to comply with the law and can do very little to assist or encourage those who wish to depart from the old heathen ways.

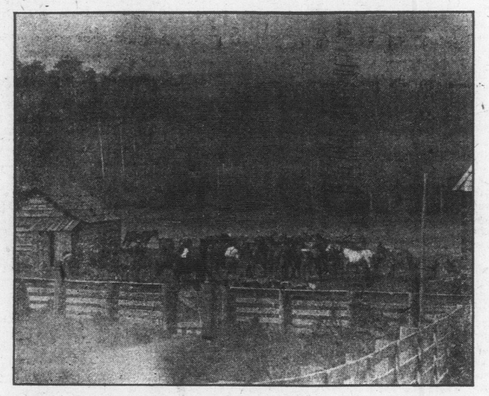
"A rather pathetic incident came to my notice where an Indian made a flag bearing a red Geneva cross and suspended it over his little patch of hay land, he having been told that the Geneva cross was a protection from hostile interference. Alas for his faith in the Christian emblem! He found lately that a white man had surrounded the entire place with a fence and claims to be the owner.

"In the Indian villages on the Skeena the old heathen customs of the people have not been entirely eradicated, and during my visit I witnessed the antics of the native medicine man, who was engaged with a rattle and drum, charms and mystic chants, in an attempt to cure a man that the white missionary doctor had been able to relieve, but who was beyond the reach of medical skill to cure.

"The Indian villages of the interior are divided into sections. You find in one part those who still adhere to primitive customs and in the other the missionary and his following. As the missionary makes converts they follow him, moving from one end of the village to the other. Among the un-Christianized the medicine man holds sway; and it is not always a man who follows the practice, but often a woman. In the case which came under my notice the Indian danced for some little time and then paused, probably for breath, and repeated the performance intermittently for an indefinite time. It is common, I understand, to exact all the personal property of the sick in case of a cure, but in cases where no cure is effected nothing is received.

"The Kishpiax Indians have a saw mill which has been worked at a profit for five or six years, and is now being rebuilt on a larger scale.

"Several of the Indians at Hazelton and Kishpiax own a dozen, and in some instances twenty, pack horses and mules, and are engaged in transporting supplies from the head of navigation to points in the interior.



PACK TRAIN—HAZELTON.

"At Minshkinisht, below Hazelton, a missionary has established a sort of co-operative temperance village, and the saw mill, wheat and oat fields and abundant crops of vegetables indicate that an era of prosperity and of a civilized way of life has come to the noble red man of the Skeena.

"While cattle abound in the pastures it must not be supposed that civilization has driven all savage animals out of the country. A black bear was shot from the pilot house of one of the river steamers this year, and some Americans who lately came down the river in a rowboat saw two or three bears along the river.

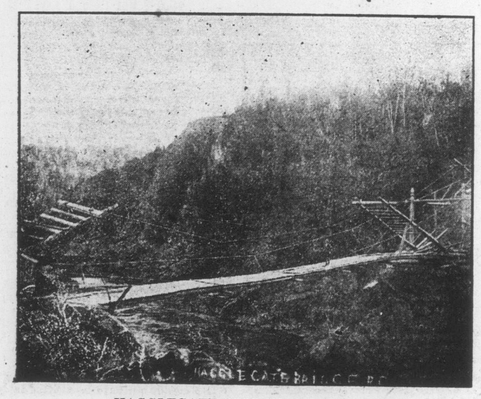
"The Indians have a variety of methods for trapping salmon. Short gill nets are used in the eddies along the banks, while in the canyons dip nets with long handles fixed in a frame are employed. In other ways though the Indians in some districts seem to possess a considerable amount of ingenuity and mechanical skill. At a village a few miles out from Hazelton a bridge has been built across a canyon by the Indians which combines the cantilever and suspension principles. The shore ends are balanced by heavy loads of stones, while the central part is suspended on wires, which are no doubt 'borrowed' from the supplies of the telegraph company.

"Another illustration of the Indian's aptness for doing things might be mentioned. At one point on the Skeena the Indians were drawing loads of wood on carts, the large wheels of which had been made of several thicknesses of boards neatly fitted.

"The first convert to Christianity at Kishpiax had a hard experience. When he joined the church his father took away all his clothes, blankets, food and cooking utensils. He managed to borrow enough things to get along with, and in time a few others joined the church with him. Even now, however, there is a constant effort to win back to heathen ways those who have embraced Christianity. The potlatch, with its attendant feasting and dances, is the strongest influence against Christianity. The methods of the Salvation Army appear to be sufficient to wean the Indian from heathen ways, and the drum and tambourine take the place of the dances. An Army corps has been organized just above Hazelton."

Mr. Best reports that around Kishpiax canyon some very good gold prospects have been found.

KITSILAS CANYON.



HAGGLEGATE BRIDGE—SKEENA RIVER.

POSTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

More Boxes Will Be Located in City and Letter Delivery Extended in Scope.

George Ross, chief superintendent of post offices, is busily engaged preparing his report for presentation to the postmaster-general with respect to the extension of the mail carrying district in this city, and a further distribution of letter boxes throughout Victoria.

Mr. Ross says that these were some of the special reasons for his trip being undertaken. For some time George Riley, M. P., has been pressing for these improvements in the postal arrangements for the city. In doing so he has been backed by petitions and requests from residents. Hon. Senator Templeman has also pressed the needs of better facilities in the way of increased drop letter boxes, and extension of the mail delivery system.

Their efforts have resulted in the department taking the matter up, and Mr. Ross is at work arranging schemes for the carrying out of the public demands.

Yesterday he visited Victoria West, and he things that the wishes of that section of the city will be readily satisfied according to the method he is adopting. Other sections are being looked into to-day.

When all is arranged by him he will submit the scheme to the minister, with every likelihood that it will be carried out as recommended by him. A number of boxes will be located in the outlying portions of the city, and sufficient additional letter carriers will be added to give some of the sections in the city, which are not now reached, the advantages of the letter delivery.

ONE TABLET AFTER EATING and what a world of distress would be saved. Dr. Stan's Pineapple Tablets cure sour stomach, distress after eating, weight in the stomach, wind on the stomach, loss of appetite, dizziness, nausea, and a dozen other troubles traceable to bad digestion. One Tablet gives instant relief. A positive and pleasant cure that nature has provided. 35 cents. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—128.

Paris streets are lighted by 50,000 lamps. Their cleaning occupies 3,753 men.

NEW SOAP COMPANY.

Stock Is Now Offered for Sale—A Secret Process Will Be Used.

A company under the name of the North America Soap Co., Ltd., has been incorporated and is preparing to open up business in this city. The company is capitalized at $250,000, divided into 250,000 shares. An issue of 85,000 shares is being put on the market. The amount of these are payable 25 cents on application, 25 cents on allotment, and the balance in calls not exceeding 25 cents.

The directors of the company are given in the prospectus just issued as Charles E. Pooley, K. C., Cuyler A. Holland, George A. Kirk, Christopher Spencer, J. M. Bradburn (managing director). J. P. Mann is secretary. The company has been incorporated for the purpose of acquiring the sole and exclusive rights for the manufacture and sale in the continent of North America (inclusive of the states known as Central America as far south as the Isthmus of Panama and the West Indian Islands and the Hawaiian Islands and other islands contiguous to the continent of North America), in a newly discovered trade process for the manufacture of a soap or sanitary cleanser.

It is not proposed to patent, but to keep the same as a secret trade process, it being the opinion of the directors that the necessary disclosure which would be entailed by the application for patents would limit its usefulness, and, to a great extent, would lay the invention open to imitation.

The formula of the soap is the property of Chas. Bradburn, of Liverpool, Eng. It has been manufactured in that city on a large scale for some time, having a long list of recommendations. The formula has been made known to J. E. Sutton, the general manager for the local company in the manufacture and distribution of the soap, and J. M. Bradburn, the managing director. To avoid the formula being lost by any accident, the formula will be deposited under seal in escrow with the company's bankers.

EASILY EXPLAINED.

Stubb—"Why is it more women cannot discover the 'secret of success'?"

Penn—Oh, because when it reaches them it is no secret."

DAMAGE BY FLOODS.

Two Hundred Drowned in Amoy District—The Captured Fishing Vessel.

Again this season considerable damage has been done by floods in the different parts of the Orient. The steamer Olympia, which arrived from China and Japan Thursday morning, brought advices that serious damage was done in the neighborhood of Amoy by a typhoon. Unusually heavy rains fell, resulting in an abnormaly high flood, which rose too with alarming rapidity. As a consequence immense numbers of houses were flooded, many to the roofs, and as Chinese houses are not as a rule noted for their strength, it is not surprising to hear that scores of houses collapsed, imperilling the inmates, and causing loss of life. Many people were rescued with difficulty from the upper rooms and even the roofs of their houses, among them three foreign missionaries, belonging to the Plymouth Brethren denomination, who happened to be living there for the time being, a Mr. and Mrs. Marks and a Mr. Blick. At the time of the flood Mrs. Marks was suffering from fever, and had to be carried out at a moment's notice, when the water was so high that the men who carried her out were up to their necks. But it was not a moment too soon, for immediately after they had left the house the roof fell in, though it was with the utmost difficulty they reached a place of safety. They are for the present ensconced in a Chinese temple.

In addition to the damage to houses and fields, part of the west bridge also collapsed, carrying with it in its fall most of the houses and shops built upon it, as well as a great many people in the shops and those crossing over.

It was reported at first that as many as 1,000 people had lost their lives, but further investigation puts the numbers at between 200 and 300. Many bodies were floated out to sea, and were cast up on the shore miles away from the scene of the catastroghe.

With reference to the petition forwarded by Mr. Uchiyama, in the matter of the recent Russian capture of Japanese fishing boats for alleged poaching, it is learned that Mr. Uchiyama has filed a supplementary petition, praying that prompt steps be taken to negotiate with the Russian authorities for the removal of the five boats now detained at Kamtchatka to the port of Korsakof, Saghalien, pending the investigation of the affair, as the cold season is fast approaching and the boats would be wrecked if left in the frozen waters at Kamtchatka. Twenty-eight captains and other officers who were committed for public trial at Vladivostock have been acquitted. The public procurator, is, however, disposed to appeal against the decision.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Annual Meeting of the Congregational Church.

The annual meeting of the Congregational church was held in the schoolroom Thursday evening, when reports from the officers and various departments of the church were received. These all showed the church to be in a flourishing condition. The membership had increased, and the finances were shown to be in better shape than ever before

A report was received from the building committee which was very gratifying, and indicated the successful completion of the task which had been before the members for some years.

The Ladies' Aid Society, Willing Workers, Mission Circle, Y. P. S. C. E. and Sunday school submitted reports which bespoke earnest care and much faithfulness.

Votes of thanks were passed to all the officers of the church, and to all who had in any way contributed to the erection and furnishing of the church.

The election of officers and committees for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Deacons, Alf. Howell and H. Goward, re-elected; trustees, George Carter, re-elected for a term of three years, and W. McKay for two years; treasurer, Wm. McKay; Sunday school superintendent, Geo. Carter, re-elected; press reporter, Mrs. Herd; secretary, Wm. Scowcroft, re-elected; auditors, Wm. Scowcroft and Geo. Carter.

The members of the various standing committees are as follows: Membership, Mrs. Geo. Carter, Mrs. D. Sprague and the deacons; finance, L. A. Campbell, A. Howell, D. Spragge, W. Scowcroft, H. Coates, L. Powell and F. Patton; music, D. Spragge, W. Astle and Mrs. Talbot; reception, H. Bruce, H. Coates, M. Carter, A. Jones and L. S. Powell.

A spirit of hopefulness characterized the meeting, which was very enjoyable. The anniversary services will be held on Sunday, when appropriate sermons will be preached by the pastor, and special music will be rendered by the choir, assisted by Madame Laird, who has kindly consented to sing a solo in the evening.

The want of an authentic map of our own Dominion of Canada was never so much felt as during the present session at Ottawa, when the Grand Trunk Pacific bill was being discussed. Few homes, business offices or schools have such a thing. The publishers of the Family Herald and Weekly Star, of Montreal, always alive to such emergencies, at once saw their opportunity and have had engraved a most complete and up-to-date map of the Dominion, with an enlarge map of this province as well. It is a new Quick Reference Map, and is all that the name implies.

The map is only one of three valuable premiums given this year to all who subscribe to that popular paper. The two others are pictures entitled "Heart-Broken" and "Hard to Choose," and are, without exaggeration, the most delightful subjects ever selected as newspaper premiums. Family Herald subscribers always get big value, but this year certainly looks the limits as to what can be given.

Sister Magdalene, of the Church of England order, appeared in her robes in the police court Niagara Falls, Ont., on Friday, charged with stealing the seven-months-old child of Mary Bowen, of Fort Erie. She pleaded guilty and was remanded to the Welland jail for one week for sentence. It is not expected that a severe punishment will be inflicted unless a criminal motive in stealing the child is known.

To The Public :

All we ask is to examine goods and note our prices before buying elsewhere.

HUNGARIAN FLOUR, per sack $1.35
B. C. SUGAR, 21 lbs $1.00
FINEST MANITOBA JERSEY CREAMERY BUTTER, 1 lb. blocks ..... 25c.

The "West End" Grocery Co., Ld.,
PHONE 88 42 GOVERNMENT STREET.
AND
The Saunders' Grocery Co., Ltd.,
PHONE 28. 39 AND 41 JOHNSON STREET.

The Paterson Shoe Co. Ld.
(WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.)
Boots and Shoes, Rubber Boots, Etc.
We are the largest exclusive dealers in Boots and Shoes in the province, and carry complete stocks of every description of Boots and Shoes, Rubbers, Rubber Boots, etc., etc., in each of our five large stores. Miners' Footwear a Specialty. Letter orders promptly and carefully filled. Write for Catalogue to
The Paterson Shoe Co. Ld.
VICTORIA, B. C.
Branch Stores: Vancouver, B.C.; Nanaimo, B.C.

Come and See Us

We take this opportunity of inviting our numerous friends to call on us during their visit to the Capital City, Exhibition week, October 6-10th. We will not talk shop unless you feel so disposed—we fully realize it is holiday time—our object being to make your visit a pleasant one.

Dixi H. Ross & Co.,
111 Government St.

Tyee Copper Co.

SMELTING WORKS AT LADYSMITH

Prepared to purchase ores as from August 1st. Convenient to E. & N. or Sea.

CLERMONT LIVINGSTON, MANAGER.
THOMAS KIDDIE, SMELTER MANAGER.

MINERAL ACT.

(Form F.)
CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS.

NOTICE.

Mildred Mineral Claim, situate in the Victoria Mining Division of Chemainus District. Where located: On Mount Brenton, on the eastern slope of the mountain and to the westward of the Horsoke Mineral Claim.

Take notice that I, Alexander Duncan McKinnon, Free Miner's Certificate No. B66354, for myself and as agent for Edward Calder, Free Miner's Certificate No. B71592, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this third day of August, A. D., 1903.

A. D. M'KINNON.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that sixty days after the publication of this notice the San Juan Boom Company will apply under the Rivers and Streams Act to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to maintain the booms and other logging improvements erected by them on Gordon river, Vancouver island, as shown on the plan thereof filed in the office of the Chief Commissioner, and to charge for the use of the same such tolls as shall be allowed by the Judge of the proper County Court in that behalf.

Dated the 4th day of September, A. D., 1903.

BODWELL & DUFF,
Solicitors for the San Juan Boom Company.

RAMS FOR SALE.

Pure bred Shropshire Rams, from Campbell's "Newton Lord" stock.; good stock at low prices.
GEO. HEATHERBELL,
Hornby Island.

Notice is hereby given that, 30 days after date, I intend to apply to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and carry away timber from the following described land: Commencing at Ferguson's N. E. corner post; thence 80 chains west, following shore line to Fregon's Homestead; thence south 80 chains; thence east 80 chains; thence north to point of commencement 80 chains; on Limestone Island, Quatsino Sound.

JAMES A. FERGUSON.
Quatsino, 25th September, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that, 30 days after date, I intend to apply to the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and carry away timber from the following described land: Commencing at a post marked "Ferguson's Corner," on Limestone Island, Quatsino Sound, on Crescent Point; thence 80 chains north; thence 80 chains west; thence 80 chains south; thence 80 chains east to point of commencement.

JAMES H. FERGUSON.
Quatsino, 25th September, 1903.

Soft White Hands vs. Autumn Weather

The coming of autumn demands the use of an emollient healing lotion for chapped hands, lips, face, etc.

Buttermilk Toilet Lotion, 25c

Answers admirably. Once used always used. There is nothing greasy nor sticky in its composition. Try it.

CYRUS H. BOWES
CHEMIST,
98 Government Street, Near Yates Street.
PHONES 425 AND 450.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that sixty days after date I, John M. McKinnon, intend making application to the Honorable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase the following described lands, situated on Swanson Bay, Group IV., Coast District, Province of British Columbia:

Commencing at a post situated at S. W. corner, Lot 10, Swanson Bay, marked John M. McKinnon; thence in a southerly direction, following shore lines 20 chains to a point due south of Lot 10; thence east 40 chains more or less to a point 20 chains east of the east boundary, Lot 10; thence north 80 chains; thence west 60 chains, more or less, to shore line; thence following the shore line southerly to the point of commencement, containing all the vacant Crown lands outside the boundaries of Lot 10, and containing an area of 320 acres, more or less.

JOHN M. M'KINNON.
August 17th, 1903.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that thirty days after date I intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to cut and carry away timber from the following described tract of land, situated on the north side of Cracroft Island, commencing at a post planted on the beach about two miles west of Bones Bay, running 80 chains each way, as follows: 80 chains south, thence 80 chains east, thence 80 chains north to the beach, thence back to place of commencement.

CHARLES PICHON.
Victoria, B. C., September 9th, 1903.

WANTED—Reliable men to sell for the Fonthill Nurseries, largest and best assortment of stock. Liberal terms to workers, pay weekly, outfit free, exclusive territory. Stone & Wellington, Toronto.