

Trip to the Porcupine

Mr. Cassidy Tells the Times His Impressions of the Great North.

Favored Country Blessed With Fine Climate, Minerals and Grand Scenery.

Robert Cassidy, the well-known barrister, returned yesterday by way of Vancouver, having taken passage from the Gateway City on the Danube. Mr. Cassidy accompanied Mr. Justice Martin on his trip to the Porcupine. While in the great North he observed minutely the various points and features along the route, and is thus in a position to intelligently discuss the possibilities of a great fraction of that portion of the continent which now occupies such a prominent place in the eyes of the world. He left this city on August 24, a few days before Mr. Justice Martin and other members of the special commission.

Upon arriving at Skagway, Mr. Cassidy was forcibly impressed with the vast amount of freight and passenger traffic which passes through the Lynn Canal port. He made the trip to White Horse and was greatly struck with the scenery on the way, which he characterized as wonderful. White Horse, in Mr. Cassidy's opinion, had every indication of becoming a substantial town. The White Pass Railway Company had erected one of the largest freight sheds on the coast, fully 750 feet in length, and which was constructed of corrugated iron.

Before leaving this point Mr. Cassidy paid a visit to the copper mines in the vicinity. Although admittedly no expert on matters mineral, he stated that it was plain there was a great amount of ore there.

At Atlin, where the district assizes were held, he was surprised to see five members of the British Columbia bar present. These were Messrs. D. G. McDaniel, J. C. D. Mason, W. P. Grant, and C. W. Sawyers. He made the sixth.

The most important cases to come before Mr. Justice Martin were, as before mentioned in these columns, that of W. Partridge vs. Lord Hamilton, and Wise vs. Christopher in regard to the Yellow Jacket claim. In the first case Mr. Cassidy appeared for the plaintiff, and in the second for Mr. Christopher. Decision was reserved in both cases.

The voyage along the lakes from Atlin was particularly enjoyed by the members of the commission. The atmosphere was wonderfully clear, and it was quite possible to perceive comparatively small boulders on the sides of the mountains, and distinguish the outlines of the various cliffs at a distance which in other localities would be impossible. The nights also contributed to the glory of the tour ensemble, real darkness being unknown.

Before the commission had started for the Porcupine country, Mr. Cassidy said that they had been almost frightened by the unfavorable accounts they had received regarding the district. They were told that it was extremely inhospitable—cold, dreary, and barren. They consequently made every arrangement for such contingencies as a rigorous climate, scarcity of food and other unfavorable details. But upon arrival at their destination they were agreeably surprised, for provisions were plentiful, and the weather was so warm that the members were desirous of doffing their heavy clothing for flannels, and straw hats would have been appreciated.

The journey from Skagway to the Porcupine country was replete with delightful experiences. After making the portage at Haynes Mission, the party crossed the Chilkat river in a canoe. They then proceeded along the Dalton trail, a distance of about thirty-five miles. This portion of the journey was undertaken on horseback, and occupied a couple of days. The scenery along the Dalton trail between Murphy's Flats and the Porcupine was the grandest of the entire trip. The trail rose from the river along foothills, and Mr. Cassidy was of the opinion that an elevation of more than one thousand feet was reached. Between the foothills and the mountains there was a narrow valley, and the mountains rose abruptly from the side, varying from four to six thousand feet. On the foothills and in the valley there was every description of trees and shrubs, which grew luxuriantly. There were also, Mr. Cassidy stated, herds of all sorts. The party also saw a great deal of game, but owing to the fact that the only weapon on hand was a five-chambered revolver, no records were established. The guide, who carried the weapon, succeeded in laying low four partridges early in the trip.

Along the Chilkat and Klahaena the party made twenty-five fords, the water at some places running with great speed. In fact at some places the party had considerable doubt of their ability to make the ford in safety. The guide, Mr. Woods, who was acting for Jack Dalton (who seemed to be the proprietor of a great portion of that country), gave the party careful instruction about crossing the stream. He said, "now, gentlemen, if your horse is carried off its feet, whatever you do, don't let go. Just stay with it, and you will be all right."

In consideration of the rather rigid fact that the water was glacial, rigid comfort was derived from this injunction, which was volunteered in the nature of an encouragement.

The animal Mr. Cassidy rode had evidently a high appreciation of his own discretion and well-developed principles of independence. He consequently endeavored to make the passage according to his own conception of the route, and as a result stepped in a hole, flattening his rider into the mysteries of waters which take their source from glaciers.

Porcupine city, the destination of the party, consisted of a dozen small houses and tents. The party made their headquarters at the only hotel in the place,

and rather expected inferior living and exorbitant prices. They were agreeably surprised, however, for the proprietor, Jack Lindsay prepared breakfast, lunch, and dinner in a manner that would delight the fastidious appetite of an epicure, for the reasonable rate of seventy-five cents.

The majority of mining in the country, said Mr. Cassidy, was being done on Porcupine creek, which was in the American territory. But Glacier creek, which was equally rich was, under the modus vivendi, in the Canadian territory. Under the American law claims were 1,500 feet, under the Canadian law 100 feet. These referred to placer diggings of course. Mr. Cassidy pointed out that the effect of the larger allowance on the American side was that it was worth while to miners to bring in machinery and inaugurate water power to work the properties. The holders of claims on Glacier creek under the American law will retain their rights in all respects. Mr. Cassidy said that in this connection everybody appeared agreed that owing to the character of the surface and the distance from bed rock, 25 feet and over, individual holders of 100 foot claims will be unable to work them at all. The same point was present in Atlin city. Gold of any consequence from the creek was being taken by capitalists, who had a number of 100 foot claims adjoining each other, and they were working them as hydraulic propositions.

Mr. Cassidy saw the British flag raised over the new territory, and was present at the opening of the commission by Mr. Justice Martin. Up till the time he left no applications had been received. Mr. Cassidy's impressions were that some vitally interested parties had brought pressure to bear upon the American claim holders in the newly acquired territory, to ignore the commission. He explained that his idea was that this action on the part of these parties was largely influenced by politics. The Democratic party in the United States were making capital out of the assertion that McKinley was giving away the country. They promised that if they were returned to power they would alter the situation, and perhaps secure a new delimitation of the boundary, which would place the Porcupine district under the Stars and Stripes. Consequently, should the American claim holders on the Porcupine now recognize the commission, such a step would commend itself to the Democrats as impolitic in view of their intention to alter matters should they be successful at the polls.

While at Porcupine Mr. Cassidy visited the camp of the N. W. M. P., where Capt. Rant was stationed as mining recorder. This was also the Canadian customs station.

Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Cobb, a prominent Junction barrister, left Porcupine city in an Indian canoe, and their trip out was a most exciting experience. The current ran from twelve to fifteen miles an hour, and the journey of forty miles was accomplished in the splendid time of five hours. Large quantities of trout and dog salmon were noticed in the rivers, and all the streams in that part of the country abounded with trout.

In regard to the prospects of the Klondike, Mr. Cassidy said that in conversation he had with men from the Klondike metropolis, it was the general belief that the Klondike mines would not by any means be worked out in ten years, but that, including the claims on known paying ground, which have not been worked, owing to their being government claims, or through other reasons, the camp was good for a decade. There was also a reasonable expectation of other gold areas being discovered, apart from quartz claims.

One circumstance struck Mr. Cassidy very forcibly, which he did not consider creditable to the enterprise of British Columbia shipping men. Over 90 per cent. of the whole of the goods sent to the Yukon country through Skagway was shipped from Victoria and Vancouver. And naturally a similar proportion of the passenger traffic followed the freight unless something unusual arose to prevent it. Yet in spite of this he found that nearly the whole of the passenger traffic, and a great proportion of the freight, were carried by American steamers. This was the general observation of travellers in and out when speaking on the subject of transportation.

It would certainly show more enterprise on the part of shipping men of Victoria and Vancouver if they placed on the northern run more attractive appearing and faster boats. The American steamers Queen, Dolphin and City of Seattle, were always crowded, and at times great difficulty was experienced in securing passage, the desire to travel on these steamers being so prevalent.

It was curious, in Mr. Cassidy's opinion, that Mr. C. E. Peabody and his associates in Seattle were able to put a steamer like the Dolphin on the run and make it pay, while Victorians and Vancouver men, who could control the traffic, were unable to place a superior class of boats on the route, to those now plying in and from the North. These would undoubtedly pay their owners enormously.

Mr. Cassidy enjoyed a splendid trip down, and his impressions of the northern country are roseate in the extreme.

HAMILTON TRAGEDY.
Young Man Says He Murdered His Sweetheart—They Had Decided to Die Together.

Hamilton, Sept. 24.—George A. Pearson, a young man who shot and killed Miss Annie Griffin while driving in a rig to Waterdown yesterday, and attributed the shooting to two unknown men, has confessed to having committed the deed. Being closely questioned, he broke down and confessed he was the guilty person, remarking: "I kissed her goodbye, then shot her, but the reason no one will ever know."

He admitted that the girl and he had made up their minds to kill themselves, and that he shot her and tried to shoot himself, but that his nerve failed him. The murderer was employed by Lampe, a butcher, and bore a good character. He is 20 years of age. Miss Griffin was of respectable parentage and also bore a good character. She was only 17 years of age.

From the Far North

Fort McPherson Missionary on His Way East—Journey Cut Is Perilous.

Five Years Spent Four Hundred Miles From a White Settlement.

"Rev. C. E. Whittaker and wife, Fort McPherson, McKenzie River," was an inscription which appeared on the register at the Dominion the early part of the week. It attracted no particular attention, and those who come and go little thought that there was a story connected with the names. Fort McPherson is one of the most northern points in Canadian territory, where an Episcopal mission has been established, and it was as a missionary that Rev. Mr. Whittaker spent five years in that place.

Rev. Mr. Whittaker is a native born Canadian. After graduating at school in Ontario he entered the service of the G. P. R., and in the freight department of that road he worked in various offices between Toronto and Winnipeg. In 1893 he finally concluded to quit the railroad service, and then he entered the college at Toronto, to prepare himself for the ministry. In 1895 missionaries were needed in the great Northwest, which was then attracting considerable attention, and among those chosen to make the rough and perilous trip was

now the book of common prayer and the hymnal in the Takudhi, which is the language spoken by the Indians. This language is spoken from McKenzie river to Dawson City.

The accompanying cut is from a photograph taken by Stephen Jones, of the Dominion hotel, and kindly loaned to the Times. It shows Mrs. Whittaker attired in her "hulky" suit, which she wore on her way out. It is a very handsome costume made from furs of different colors, but it is just a trifle warm for this climate.

Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker left on Tuesday for Toronto. They will visit relatives in Eastern Canada during the winter. Mr. Whittaker will deliver lectures on the North and the proceeds will go into the mission fund of the Episcopal church. In the spring they will return to Fort McPherson. The journey is made via Edmonton, from there to Athabasca landing and then down the river by boat. The couple have grown accustomed to their surroundings and both of them say that they would not really care to live away from the land of the midnight sun.

FILIPINO ACTIVITY.
Attack on United States Outposts Twelve Miles From Manila.

Manila, Sept. 25.—On Monday night vigorous insurgent attacks were made upon the United States outposts in the districts near Las Pinas, Paranaque, Bacoor and Imus, 12 miles south of Manila, the scene of fighting last October. It is estimated that the rebels numbered 400, and they were armed with rifles. The inhabitants took refuge in the churches.

The Americans have since energetically dispersed the enemy, killing and wounding 50.

It is reported that an American scout-

Nature's Treasures

Bodies of Ore That Will Be a Factor in the Future of Victoria.

Interesting Experiments at Farming Made on Queen Charlotte Islands.

"Five years hence and you will see on the west coast of this Island a mining country that will surprise some of our pioneers of staid ideas and pessimistic opinions. There is plenty of mineral to be found—gold, iron and copper principally; the mineralized ledges extend in most cases right to salt water, thus affording the easiest and cheapest transportation facilities, and for a distance of 150 miles there is found more claims staked off and in readiness for development work than in any other quartz section of coast line in America."

Thus prophesied a prospector yesterday who has been all along the Coast, and who for good and sufficient reasons does not care to have his name appear in print. While his remarks are very applicable to the West Coast, they could apply with equal force to the East Coast, where even more tangible evidence of prosperity is to be seen, especially at Mount Sicker and on Texada, not to speak of the coal mines now shipping thousands of tons annually. And Salt Spring Island will also have its day ere long. Coal deposits are known to

found the black sand placer diggings, which are making Wreck bay famous all along the Coast. The gold here taken out of the beach is obtained in greater quantities each successive week, and on the return of the steamer Wiliapa from her present trip down the Coast a very substantial shipment of the precious metal is expected to arrive. Deer creek lies not far beyond Wreck bay and a number of copper prospects have here been struck, a promising claim being owned by Mr. Thompson, an assayer of this city. Down the Coast still further is Bear river, which possesses several copper properties, which, it is said, for lack of capital are not receiving a great deal of attention. At Sidney Inlet, but a short distance beyond, Hon. Edgar Dowdney and his company own a rich copper proposition on which they but recently made a second payment, demonstrating their good faith in the mine. Around Kyugnot numerous claims are staked off, Mr. Fakir, a storekeeper at that point, owning one which the prospector says is looking rich.

But it was over the Quintano prospects that the prospector grew most enthusiastic, and he says the finest showing of ore for the work done on it belongs to a company of Swedes. An effort is now being made to organize a company in this city for the working of six of the mines under one management. As to the coal deposits, the prospector had nothing to say.

After leaving the West Coast, he went to Queen Charlotte Islands, a country still less known than the West Coast, where agriculture has only been attempted in but one or two instances. About three miles from Masset, a lone farmer resides, in the person of Rev. Mr. Harrison, who, retiring from missionary work, went to make a fortune on a small scale and is doing well. He took seven head of stock to the island and has now considerable land under cultivation. An experiment in raising stock on the island was also tried by Mr. Alexander, a magistrate at Port Simpson, and Mr. Hall, of the Hudson Bay Company, and then again someone tried to raise rabbits on the island. The latter, however, have since been all exterminated by the Indians. The cattle, of which there had been probably 300 head, were placed on Rose Spit, and have also been reduced greatly in number. Both experiments were failures. The cattle remaining are now perfectly wild, and it is said will attack all coming within sight. The northern end of the islands is quite level, the mountains becoming higher and more abrupt as one journeys south. In the north also are many coal formations, while about Masset the best cedar and spruce can be found in great quantities. This timber belt, however, is not accessible, and therefore is of little service to commerce as it is at present. In British Columbia.

The climate of the island is more wet than in Victoria, but vegetation, so far as grasses along the shore are concerned, is very rapid, a great deal of the wild pea plant being found.

Halibut, cod and dog fish are most abundant.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE.
Sitting of the Court of Assize Here Postponed From Tuesday Until Friday.

The Official Gazette published last evening contains the appointment of Wm. McNeil to be secretary in the department of lands and works, and assistant to the chief commissioner.

The sitting of the Court of Assize in Victoria has been postponed from October 2nd until October 7th. The sitting of the Court of Assize at Clinton has been postponed from October 5th until October 12th.

Notice is given of the assignment of the Palace Clothing House, and W. M. Lawrence, hardware merchant, both of Vancouver.

A court of revision and appeal, under the Assessment Act, will be held at Alberni, in the court house, on November 14th, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon; at Cumberland, in the court house, on November 21st, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon; at Salt Spring Island, in the court house, the 30th November, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon; at Mayne Island, in the court house, on the 15th December, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon; at Duncan, in the court house, on the 15th December, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon; at Nanaimo, in the court house, December 21st, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Courts of revision and appeal, under the provisions of the Assessment Act, will be held at places and dates as follows: At William Wormald's hotel, Stanley, Lightning Creek, on Wednesday, the 10th day of October, at 10 o'clock a.m.; the government office, Quesnel, Friday, the 12th October, at 10 o'clock a.m.; A. D. McInnes's, Alexandria, Saturday, the 13th October, at 3 o'clock p.m.; McLeese's hotel, Soda Creek, Monday, the 15th day of October, at 10 o'clock a.m.; 150-Mile house, Wednesday, 17th October, at 10 o'clock a.m.; at the government office, Barkerville, Wednesday, the 31st of October, at 10 o'clock a.m.

The following companies have been incorporated: Clam Belle Consolidated, Ltd., capital \$200,000, and the Rossland Co-operation Association, Ltd.

A certificate of registration has been granted to the Pierce Gold Mining Company, of New Whatcom, capital \$10,000. Licenses have been issued to the Portland Mine, Ltd., of Rossland, capital \$120,000, with headquarters in England, and to the Velvet (Rossland) Mine, capital \$200,000, also with head office in England.

FISHING SMACKS WRECKED.
(Associated Press.)
Edinburgh, Sept. 26.—News has been received at Drummur, Luce Bay, of a hurricane at Offord, Iceland, on September 20th. The wind, it is said, blew 120 miles an hour. Nearly all the fishing smacks were driven ashore, houses were razed and several persons were killed. There was great destruction of property.

SHOT BY A DOCTOR.
(Associated Press.)
Louisville, Ky., Sept. 25.—Dr. Hugh McCullough, coroner of Jefferson County, last night shot and killed George Owen, 21 years old, at the latter's home. Coroner McCullough was arrested and detained bail.

ARCTIC EXPLORATION.
(Associated Press.)
London, Sept. 25.—Dr. Nansen and the Duke of Abruzzi, according to a dispatch to the Daily Express from Christiania, have agreed to undertake a joint expedition into the North Pole regions.



REV. MR. WHITTAKER AND WIFE—MRS. WHITTAKER IN TRAVELING COSTUME.

Mr. Whittaker. He went in over the Edmonton trail, and it was on this journey that he met the lady who is now his wife. Mrs. Whittaker was direct from London, and she was on her way to visit a sister who had married and moved to Fort Chipewyan a few years before. On the journey the couple became well acquainted, and the acquaintance ripened into love. They were married three years ago, and the lady then took up her residence at Fort McPherson. Accompanying them is their infant daughter, who is also an interesting mite of humanity and bears the distinction of being the first white child ever born in that section of the world.

The couple have many interesting experiences to tell of their life in the wild region lying on the waters of the McKenzie river. It took five weeks to make the journey out from the mission to Fort Yukon, and the trip was made in an Eskimo skin boat. The rivers are a continual succession of rapids, and in sixty miles over three hundred of these dangerous obstacles to navigation were encountered. The couple lived for thirty days in an open boat, while coming down the Pel and Porcupine rivers.

It was no task after the spiritual welfare of the Eskimoes that Mr. Whittaker was sent to Fort McPherson; when he went there Indians were not at all numerous in the vicinity, but now there are a number of them around the place, and he has also to deal with them. The heaviest white settlers are 400 miles away, and Mrs. Whittaker does not make many afternoon calls. The Eskimo race is slow to embrace the doctrines taught by the Christian churches, so that few converts have been made. But the work of the missionaries has not been in vain, and the natives are far more intelligent than they were a few years ago. A hard worker in the cause of religion is Bishop Reave, of Fort Simpson, and Ven. Archdeacon McDonald is translating the language so that there is

ing party encountered a body of insurgents in the province of Nueva Ecija, two skirmishes ensuing, in which 12 of the natives were killed.

Similar brushes have taken place near Ludang and Silang, in Cavite province, and near Iba and Subig, in Zamboanga province, the Americans having two killed and three wounded.

Advices from the island of Leyte say that Gen. Mojica's bands have been scattered and demoralized by Major Henry T. Allan, of the Forty-Third Infantry, who has vigorously pursued the insurgents into the mountains, capturing many and taking a quantity of money, rings, ammunition and stores.

DESTRUCTIVE WATERPOUT.
Four Persons Killed and Several Persons Severely Injured—Heavy Loss of Property.

(Associated Press.)
Des Moines, Ia., Sept. 26.—Four people were killed and several others severely injured in a waterpout and tornado at Ferguson, Marshall county, last night. The station agent and the telegraph operator were badly hurt. The railway station was badly wrecked, several cars were blown from the tracks and more or less damaged and many houses were destroyed. Wire connections with Ferguson are interrupted, and it was impossible to learn the names of those killed and injured.

Several waterpouts and much wind and rain are reported from the vicinity of Redfield and Madrid, whose tracks are washed out in many places. Towns along the Great Western road also report hard wind and rain on this side of Marshalltown. From all sections of this quarter of the state a heavy property loss is reported, but no loss of life is known except at Ferguson.