

Kamloops, April 2, 1897.

The weather during March has been very severe throughout the whole country, and the result is an enormous loss of cattle and the ruin of many people. The winter was a pretty mild one, but owing to the terrible spell of cold weather which took place early in November, and another month of snow storms and cold weather during March when everybody looked for spring, made this winter one of the longest ones experienced in this country.

Miners and prospectors are making preparations all over the country, and this season promises to be a very lively one. Kamloops is having its share in the mining boom, and the little city is looking livelier every day. Hundreds of claims have been taken up and every day new discoveries are made, more and more startling, which set the gold fever in the veins and brains of our population.

At Spuzzum and at Lytton where we spent Sundays, 14th and 21st of March, the Indians have had good luck washing sand, and thousands of dollars in gold dust have been turned into the stores at the end of each week. The extremely low water in the Fraser and Thompson rivers has left bare a number of rich spots never touched before.

Charlie Chapman, captain of our Indians at Teekoolos, died Thursday night, March 11th. It was quite a sudden death. We had arrived there the same evening to make our regular visit to the Indians of the place, and had been talking with Charlie for an hour or so. Charlie had been ailing somewhat from disordered liver and some accident which had hurt his head, and possibly sustained internal injuries, but he seemed to be doing fairly well,

sitting up and going about as usual. After eleven at night we retired, and I was scarcely in bed when they called me up and said Charlie was going to die. I had hardly time to administer him Absolution and summary Extreme Uction when he breathed his last.

We left Kamloops last Friday night for an absence of three or four days. Before we started to come back we heard that new mines had been discovered in the vicinity of Kamloops, which if the reports are true promise to bring \$800 to the ton and more. No wonder our population is growing a little excited.

Over 500 copies of the Wawa Shorthand Instructor have been disposed of lately, and orders are coming in daily. The following comes in from St. Thomas Ontario: "I understand that your system is much more easily learnt than the Pitman system, being highly recommended by the Manager of the Merchants Bank here."

On our way back, from Savona, last Tuesday, we had an accident, the train coming on a rock slide at the mouth of a tunnel. The locomotive and four or five cars were thrown off the track and damaged, the Engineer had his wrist broken and his face badly cut. The fireman also sustained severe injury. The balance escaped uninjured. I received next day the following note: "Dear Father LeJeune, I congratulate you on your escape from yesterday's railway wreck. It shows how uncertain life is, and how every one should live in a state of preparation for the future state, and to be like a soldier always on guard. I am glad you came out safely. Yours truly, John Jane."