



First House and First Child in Cobalt

This picture was taken of one of the first shacks built in Cobalt. It stood where now stands the Hunter Block. The little one seen in the picture is that of the first child born in Cobalt. She is Annita Cahill. When I heard the mother speaking to her as "Annita," I asked: "Where did you get that name?" "In the very early days of the camp, a commercial man came up from Montreal. He brought with him a novel, and loaning it to us, we saw the name, and liking it, called baby Annita after the character." "What was the name of the novel?" I asked. "*My Friend Bill*," said she. "Ah, indeed!" said I, a bit proud. "And so I named the first child in Cobalt." "How so?" she asked, in surprise. "Well, you see, '*My Friend Bill*' is my own book—my first attempt at novel writing." One never knows where one's mind children will be found—but to meet them, whether in the great city or in some far-away mining camp, is a peculiar pleasure.

The others in the group are Annita's mother, grandfather, and "Uncle Tom"—Tom Cahill, so widely known "up the Montreal."