

RESOURCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

"WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

VOLUME I.
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THE STEAMER "SKUZZY."

This staunch craft of 120 tons register, which plies on the turbulent Fraser above Boston Bar as a tender to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was launched in April, 1882, at Number Six Tunnel, fifteen miles above Yale, where she had been built during the previous winter by the railway contractors under the supervision of William Dalton, master shipwright.

Her dimensions are 120 feet length over all, twenty-four feet beam, and four and a half feet depth of hold. She is propelled by two horizontal engines, of fourteen-inch bore and four-and-a-half feet stroke, the power being supplied by a superb steel tubular boiler of abundant capacity, which has been tested to a pressure of 200 pounds to the square inch. In addition to her propelling power she has a steam winch placed in her bows for the purpose of warping through the chutes and rapids which ever recur along the route. This piece of machinery is driven by two engines and is geared up to produce 100-horse power.

The "Skuzzy" is a steamer of remarkable strength and is admirably adapted to withstand the perils which constantly beset her in the navigation of one of the most difficult river passages on the continent. Her hull is divided into upwards of twenty compartments each partitioned off from the other by watertight bulkheads, and it has been proven—by accident however—that it is impossible to sink her with one-half her bottom torn out. Natural knees were used in her construction throughout.

The trial trip of the "Skuzzy" between Chapman's Bar and China Bar through the canyon of the Fraser, was indeed a *trial* trip, and was perhaps the greatest and most eventful that steamboat ever made. In this eight miles as all our readers know who have ever traveled the Cariboo Wagon road, old Father Fraser lashes himself into the wildest fury, his fierce anger expending itself in seething rapids, roaring cataracts, and horrid, remorseless, boiling whirlpools. It was against this tumult that our little "Iron-sides" first turned her stem and through which, after many struggles in which she was often repulsed that she finally reached her goal after a two weeks battle, tight as a bottle, but *sans* guards, *sans* paint and as dilapidated externally as the salmon one sees on the upper Fraser who have made a trip through the canyon.

During the past two seasons the "Skuzzy" has been invaluable in the assistance she has rendered the railway builders in carrying supplies along the line of works. After this year she will no longer be required

for that service and she will most probably either be brought down again to the lower river or else be placed on the route between Lytton and Lillooet if there is sufficient traffic to warrant running a steamer there.

Our illustration is a very faithful one and shows the "Skuzzy" climbing the rapids at the mouth of Ainsley Creek, thirty-three miles above Yale.

INFORMATION.

SEA VIEW FARM,
OTTER DISTRICT, Sept. 18, 1883.

EDITOR RESOURCES,—Yours of the 8th instant received. To answer all your questions would take more space than you would be willing to give or I time to write at present. It will, I think, be best to tell you on the start that I am among the number who regard agriculture as the most useful, the most healthful, most honorable and noble employment of man. I know that where the soil is well cultivated the best crops grow.

The character of the soil in this District varies, the timbered lands consisting chiefly of a clayey loam, and when cleared is very productive, growing good crops of either of the cereals. I have grown wheat this summer six inches long in the ear, the straw being 5 ft. 6 in., and some 6 ft., and stiff. I have also grown oats with more than two hundred oats in a panicle and ten panicles to the stool or one seed; and barley I have with six inch ears.

Alder bottoms and swamps consist of varied qualities of friable loam to a peaty soil. The first will grow from 5 to 10 tons of potatoes to the acre, and the swamp lands, when drained, will grow immense crops of turnips, cabbage, oats or hay; the oats usually grow too rank the first season or two after being drained; apples, pears, plums, cherries, all do well. Of course you are aware of my being engaged in the seed business, and therefore have grown a little of everything, and everything grown has done well. I cut a cabbage to-day for dinner that weighed fifteen pounds, and there are plenty more like it. It was planted where a potato had missed and received exactly the same cultivation as the potatoes, soil not manured.

THOS. TUGWELL.

REAL ESTATE.

At an auction sale of real estate by J. P. Davies & Co. a lot 20x34 feet on the corner of Government and Yates streets brought \$8,900. At the same rate the full lot (60x120) would have realized \$94,200.

H. F. Heisterman & Co. disposed of Capt. Starr's property (residence and four lots) situated across James' Bay, for \$15,000.