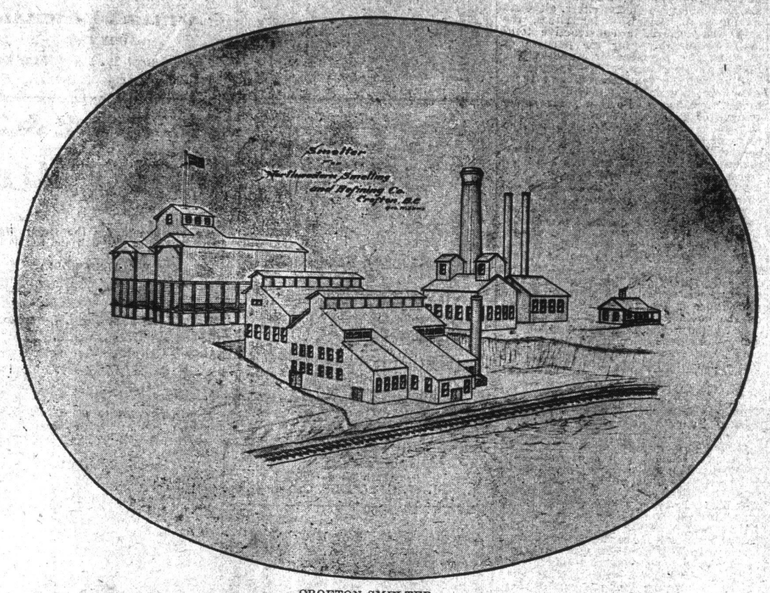
CROFTON AND ITS SMELTER ATTRACT A LARGE NUMBER OF INTERESTED VISITORS

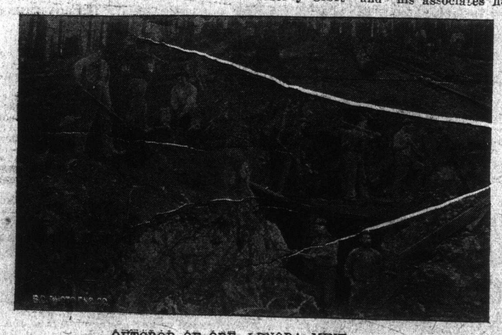


CROFTON SMELTER.

THE PROPOSED WORKS AT CROFTON

Victorians Enjoy an Afternoon's Outing in Visit to New Town.

"Distant fields look greenest" is a saying as true to-day as ever it was. And of no particular fields can this be said with more truth than those of British Columbia. If all the Victoria money which has been lost in "wildcats" in Kootenay and other Mainland mining sections had been put to account in exploiting Vancouver Island, the existence of the rich mineral deposits of the Mount Sicker district would have been proven years ago, and this city, instead of being so much the poorer by the constant drain of Mainland development, would be one of the leading mining centres of the Pacific Coast.

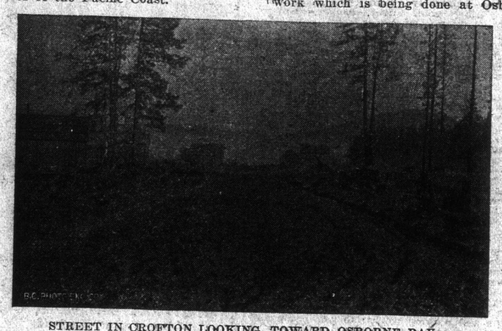


OUTCROP OF ORE, LENORA MINE.

NUGGET CREEK BRIDGE, LENORA AND MOUNT SICKER. R. R.

However, Victorians always had faith in their own island, and continued to look upon it as a sort of reserve which, when the right time had come, would prove to the world that it was not by any means the least valuable portion of the province of British Columbia. That this time has now come has been demonstrated by the developments which Mr. Henry Croft and his associates have been, and are to-day, carrying out at Mount Sicker and at Osborne Bay, and Vancouver Island stands forth as a field for profitable mining second to none in the Northwest.

Yesterday a number of citizens took advantage of the first excursion train over the new Terminal Railway to visit Crofton and see for themselves the work which is being done at Osborne Bay. This latter undertaking is an outcome of the development of the mines at Mount Sicker, so that in referring to the smelter it is only natural that attention be drawn at the same time to the Lenora mine.



STREET IN CROFTON LOOKING TOWARD OSBORNE BAY.

Of the works at Mount Sicker, much has been written, but even now few Victorians have an adequate idea of the extent of these works and what their successful operation means to this city. The cut of the locomotive and ore cars shows the solidity of the railroad over which the ore will be hauled to the smelter at Crofton, and by inference it may be assumed that if such a complicated and expensive an affair as a railroad, even though it be but narrow gauge, has been installed in order to operate the Lenora mine, the mine itself must be a work of some magnitude. The second view shows an outcropping of the ore, the miners having followed the vein from the deep workings to the surface. This latter photograph is a quite recent one.

So much for the mine. Now for the smelter and the new smelter town of Crofton.

Crofton is situated upon the beautiful Osborne Bay, an inlet a few miles above Maple Bay, running in from the strait which divides Salt Spring from Vancouver Island. The harbor is almost landlocked, yet affords deep-water anchorage, and is on the regular steamer route from Victoria to Nanaimo. The new town may be reached by steamer or by rail. In the latter case, Duncan, on the E. & N., is the point from which a drive of about a dozen miles brings the traveler to the embryo city of Crofton.

The city itself, as will be seen by the illustrations to-day, is confined to one street, which has just been graded, the smelter site being on the water-front and to the right of the road looking towards the bay. Although these views were taken about the end of last month, the scenes have already changed, several houses having been completed and others put in hand for early completion. With the rapid and satisfactory growth of Ladysmith before their eyes, investors and prospective citizens of the new town have not been slow to take advantage of the opportunity, and the latest photographs show great building activity. That Crofton will be a second Rossland is the unanimous verdict of those who have taken the time to investigate the claims of the district to be the forthcoming mining centre of the province.

A few particulars as to the smelter which is now in course of construction at Crofton may prove of interest. The works will consist of two blast furnaces, the largest with a calculated capacity of 400 tons per day, the second being somewhat smaller. The furnace room will be built large enough to accommodate, besides these two furnaces, two additional, each of 400 tons capacity. A modern bessemerizing plant will be erected in addition to the two furnaces. This will be a great benefit to mine-owners of Vancouver Island and the coast of British Columbia, as the freight on the matte to New York will be saved to a great extent, as the output of the Crofton smelter will consist of blister copper instead of ordinary matte.

The power plant will consist of one compound condensing engine of 550 h. p., of which one side—that is, the high pressure—will be erected, and at present will have a capacity of about 275 h. p.

A large blowing engine will be erected to supply the converters, whilst two Connesville blowers will supply the air for the furnaces. The boiler room will contain three boilers of 200 h. p. each. The main stack is of brick, 12 feet in diameter, inside measurement, and 120 feet high.

A contract for a wharf 750 feet in length, to deep water, has been let, and this will furnish ample facilities for all shipping. There will be four tracks of standard gauge and one narrow gauge track.

NEW HOTELS. CROFTON.

AMERICAN DRINKS ABROAD.

London Bartender's Knowledge as to Service of a "Cocktail."

When the late Mike Wooff, the inimitable delineator of gamin life, was in London a half score of years ago he was attracted to a certain well known hostelry by the sign, "American Drinks a Specialty." Approaching the polished mahogany, he asked, to make sure:

"Do you have American mixed drinks?"

"Yes," said the suave servitor.

"All right," said Mike happily, make me a whisky cocktail."

The compounder eyed the artist for a moment and asked curtly:

"Hot or cold?"—New York Times.

Views on The Bill

(Continued From Page One.)

Mayor Clute of Rossland had talked the matter over with the contingent of professional and business men from Kootenay at present in the city, and had reached the conclusion that the measure was a fairly satisfactory one, and did ample justice to the claims and importance of the great industries of the upper country. In the past it had been their lot to have to complain for lack of representation on the floor of the chamber and he thought that the copies of the bill that had been sent up to the various points in Kootenay would occasion a good deal of rejoicing and satisfaction throughout that portion of the country. The sub-divisions of the Kootenay would be found equally satisfactory, he thought, as the general proportion of the representation. They appeared to follow the natural lines very closely and did a fair measure of justice to every individual section up there.

James Cunningham, the well-known hardware merchant of New Westminster, told the Colonist reporter that the bill was all right. As an old-timer in British Columbia, he was in a fair position to estimate what the various parts of the province were entitled to in the way of representation in the legislature and the present measure met with his thorough approval. Its definition of the boundaries of the various constituencies seemed very fair and in point of justice in the distribution of the seats there was little room for criticism, unless it be in such a case as that of Vancouver city, when he could not very well see any need for five members. Four, he thought, was quite enough for it.

Michael Young, of the New England, confessed that he had not given the matter the attention that its importance demanded. He had been too busy. But the general outlines of the bill seemed to him to be very satisfactory, with but one exception, and that was the case of Esquimalt. He had for many years had extensive interests in that constituency, and knowing it very well was quite sure that the taking away of one of its members would be very much resented by the electorate there whose interests in the province, and particularly when the importance of the naval station was considered, were such as too fully justify the two members that had represented it for so many years.

Simon Leiser, the well-known wholesale grocer of this city, thought that the bill brought down by the government was a good fair measure. Its chief feature seemed to him to be the slight increase in the number of the representatives for the province generally, but thought that the present circumstances thoroughly justified such action. It was without doubt a very hard matter to suit every section of British Columbia, and he could easily understand that this might be the only possible way of doing justice to those portions claiming heretofore that they were not adequately represented. From all that he had heard on the subject he thought that the bill was meeting with general approval, such as he considered it well deserved. Referring to the principle of representation by population, Mr. Leiser thought that many western communities were so composed that some consideration should also be given to the size of the vote[illegible] lists, although in that case Victoria might suffer somewhat from the large number who through negligence or indifference did not see to it that their names were on the list. Over in the Mainland cities this matter was carefully watched with the result that there were fewer votes lost there than in this city.

J. C. Greene, of Golden, thought that the measure should satisfy the country. Personally he disapproved of the cities being so well represented, and thought that the interests of Victoria and Vancouver could be just as well served by a couple of members apiece as by the present four or five.

Peter McVeigh, the well-known railway contractor, said that for many years his business had been centered in the Kootenay district and he was glad to see such ample justice done to that part of the province as was promised in this bill. Time and time again promises to this effect had been given but the present was the first government to do much towards carrying them into effect.

W. H. Price was of the opinion that the present growing days of Vancouver Island should have precluded any reduction in the number of its members and thought that with the four added members being given to Kootenay the question could have been very well met. If any mistake appeared in the bill it was its very liberality and there was no doubt but that the government was trying its utmost to do what was fair.

E. B. Marvin thought that he ought not to express an opinion on such an important question until he had an opportunity of considering the census figures and the other data upon which such a and the other data upon which such a ever, to see that it was suggested to take a couple of members from the representation of the Island. While the population of the latter might not be increasing at so rapid a rate as was the case up in Kootenay, yet its communities were well established and the great growth of late years together with its increased commercial importance were, in his mind, quite sufficient for retaining the present number of its members in the legislative chamber.

Alderman Kinsman, of this city, thought that it was a fair measure so far as he understood it. There might be some complaint about Vancouver getting a member more, but if that city had the population to warrant it he thought justice should be done. He did not know anything about all the different parts of the province, but hoped that in the present bill an even-handed justice would be dealt out. That was what the people always wanted in the long run and they should have it.

BLOOD TROUBLES

Blood troubles are many, important—and dangerous, and manifest themselves in many painful and offensive ways, such as scrofula, eczema and boils. These troubles are particularly likely to make themselves felt during the Spring months, and as the impurities in the blood penetrate every part of the system they are responsible for a large proportion of all disease.

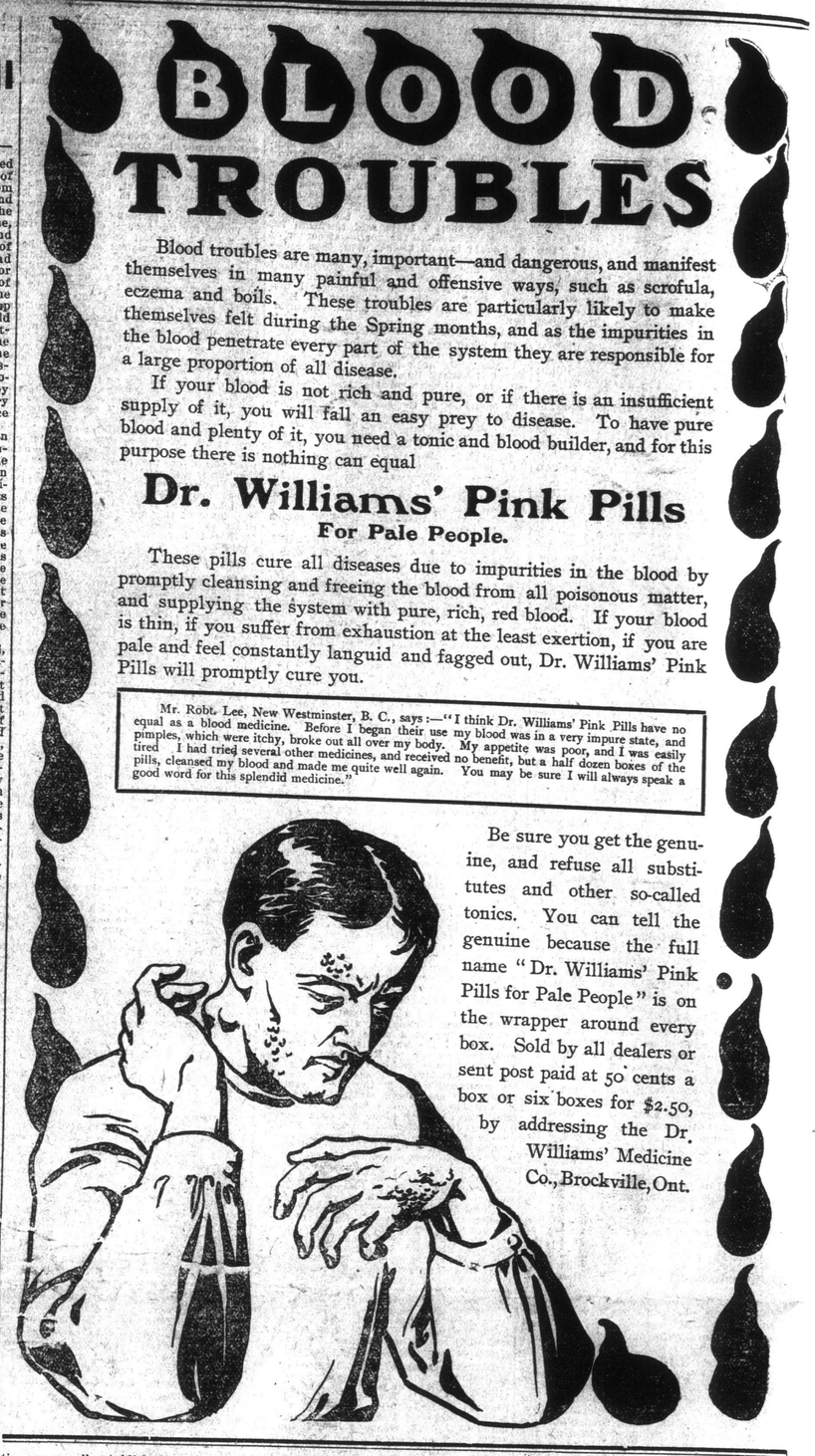
If your blood is not rich and pure, or if there is an insufficient supply of it, you will fall an easy prey to disease. To have pure blood and plenty of it, you need a tonic and blood builder, and for this purpose there is nothing can equal

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills

For Pale People.

These pills cure all diseases due to impurities in the blood by promptly cleansing and freeing the blood from all poisonous matter, and supplying the system with pure, rich, red blood. If your blood is thin, if you suffer from exhaustion at the least exertion, if you are pale and feel constantly languid and fagged out, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will promptly cure you.

Mr. Robt. Lee, New Westminster, B. C., says:—"I think Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have no equal as a blood medicine. Before I began their use my blood was in a very impure state, and pimples, which were itchy, broke out all over my body. My appetite was poor, and I was easily tired I had tried several other medicines, and received no benefit, but a half dozen boxes of the pills, cleansed my blood and made me quite well again. You may be sure I will always speak a good word for this splendid medicine."



Be sure you get the genuine, and refuse all substitutes and other so-called tonics. You can tell the genuine because the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People" is on the wrapper around every box. Sold by all dealers or sent post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for $2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

One fact is better than ten hearsays. Ask Doctor Burgess, Supt. Hospital for Insane, Montreal, where they have used it for years, for his opinion of "The D. & L." Menthol Plaster. Get the genuine made by Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

LONG SERVICE REWARDED.

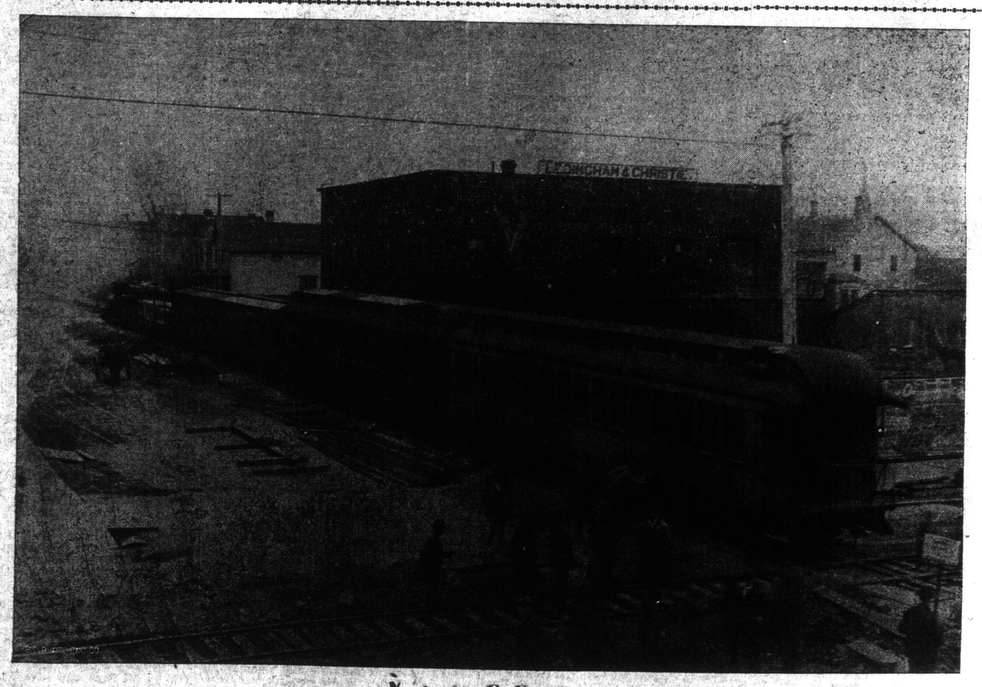
Major Munro to Receive Medal for Twenty Years Services.

As already mentioned in the Colonist special despatch from Ottawa Major Munro, commanding officer of the Fifth regiment, has been awarded the medal for long service. For twenty years he has been a member of the regiment, which he now commands. He entered the regiment when it was known as the Victoria Garrison Artillery, and twenty years ago drilled in a wooden building with clay floor on the same site on which the fine drill hall now stands. He enlisted as a gunner and has passed through every rank excepting that of corporal, and including Sergeant-Major a post now held by a paid officer. The regiment has had several titles since he became a member, the last prior to the recent change to the Fifth regiment C. A., being "B. C., B. G. A." The award of the medal has been gazetted and the medal will be forwarded to Major Munro in due course.

As a result of the promotion of Major Munro to the command of the regiment from No. 1 Company, to which he was attached, Lieut. A. W. Currie has been promoted to the rank of captain. J. D. Pemberton has also been promoted to a captaincy to complete the establishment. Mr. C. E. Stevens, of the B. C. Electrical Railway company, has been appointed a second lieutenant provisionally, to complete establishment, the appointment dating from November 27th last.

A meeting of the officers mess of the regiment has been called for Thursday, March 27, at 8:30 p. m.

Public opinion is long in favor of Pain-Killer. For over sixty years the foremost household remedy for cuts, bruises, sprains, and all bowel complaints. Avoid substitutes, there is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. 25c. and 50c.



V. I. R. & P. CO.

First Train Departs From the Market Hall Station.

The first regular train of the Victoria Terminal Railway to start from the Central Station, Market building, left yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Two passenger coaches were filled with sportsmen and others bound for Sidney and intermediate points. The departure of the train was witnessed by a large crowd, including many prominent citizens.

This morning at 8 o'clock a train will leave the Central Station with a party of excursionists for Crofton.