

Harvesting the Lumber Treasure of Vancouver Island

(By Ernest McGaffey, Secy. V. I. D. L.)

Starting from Nanaimo on the steamer City of Nanaimo, we followed the Georgia Straits en route to Comox. It was a day of alternating cloud and sunshine, and the sea presented a constantly changing panorama of lights and shades. To the left, rose the mountains of the island, many of them snow-crowned, and all rising abruptly and rugged as we went by. Occasionally a passing launch showed speck-like on the water, and once we marked a Siwash canoe dipping like some floating bird on the water.

To the right the peaks on the mainland dim and distant, and trailed about them the mists of early morning.

A strange phenomenon about the highest peaks was, that they seemed to follow us.

Hour after hour some lone summit in sight, and when we finally shook

ceding crest would loom up and cling

se until it, too, had disappeared, to

by yet another snow-crowned

as the same with the waves that we

ugh.

ach sank down astern, exhausted

se,

nk, another rose, and galloped

o, where I went ashore, was

ling. Here a few passengers

eight was put ashore. Here

ns had gathered, some on

thers with apparently noth-

oke the inevitable cigarette,

ve superseded the ancient

next stop was Hornby

ally situated, and fringed

arbutus trees. Here there

e of people all men except-

h in dainty shirtwaist and

a picturesque contrast to

ity. Here we sent ashore

more freight, and here one persistent inquirer

kept the boat waiting while he vainly searched

for a box of groceries which had somehow

missed their connection with the steamer.

Steaming out from Hornby Island, we passed

Yellow Rock lighthouse, with its two shining,

its rugged and scarred bulwarks shining in the

spreading sunlight. Further on we sighted

Comox, nestled in the hills, green with many a

shining emerald fold of glistening fields and with

a welcoming freshness in its charming slopes.

The town is beautifully situated, and seems to

be more than usually blessed with an air of

prosperity and advancement. Here I met Mr.

William Duncan, president of the Comox De-

velopment league, whose hearty handshake

made me feel quite at home. There was quite

a gathering at the Comox wharf, and after

meeting some of the citizens, I was taken by

Mr. Duncan to the stage running to Courtney

and we started for that place.

From Comox to Courtney the road runs

through a fine farming district, and many of

the farmers are old settlers on the island. Much

land has been drained and cleared, and the work

of extending this scheme of reclaiming the soil

is being steadily carried on. At Courtney I

stopped at the hotel, and afterwards drove

around the district a little before supper. The

Courtney river, a few yards from the hotel, is

a magnificent waterpower virtually running to

waste, which could be dammed and made to

furnish power for mill and factory sites. There

is plenty of splendid timber, too, in the vicinity,

and this proximity of wood-pulp and material

and natural power suggests very forcibly the

practicability of paper and pulp mills.

In the evening the Comox Development

League of the Vancouver Island Development

League held a meeting in Agricultural hall, with

fine attendance of the people of the district,

including a number of ladies. Mr. Duncan opened

the speech-making with an able address, in

which he called attention to the needs of the

district in the way of development, the vast ad-

vantages which the country offered to both in-

vestors and settlers, and the benefits accruing

from the co-operation afforded by the inaugura-

tion of the Vancouver Island Development

League. President Duncan spoke in glowing

terms of the prospects of the Comox district

with its towns of Courtney, Comox and Cum-

berland, and closed with an appeal for all of his

hearers to join in the work of developing the

district and aiding the league. His address

was applauded vigorously.

In the absence of the secretary of the Comox

league, the treasurer gave an address which was

full of solid and pithy advice, and which was

delivered with the fervor of a man who be-

lieved in what he said. The gist of his speech

was to "get busy," work, and development

would follow as surely as crops would follow

where seed has been sown and careful cul-

tivation been given. The treasurer's talk was

received with enthusiasm.

Robert Grant, M.P.P. for Comox District,

was next called on and gave assurance of his

heartly support to the league and its objects,

and his faith in its ultimate and full success.

J. McPhee, of Courtney followed with a speech

marked by optimistic views of the resources of

the district and his sympathy with the aims and

objects of the league. Mr. Harrigan was heard

on the subject of "The Settler's Land Act Que-

stion," and other citizens of the district added

remarks during the course of the evening.

Robert C. Wilson, secretary of the Cum-

berland Development League, and present at the

meeting, gave a ringing address, in which he

fold of the work being done in the Cumberland

district, and urged everybody to join the League

and help on in the good work. Mr. Wilson's

speech was full of ginger and wit, and was one

of the best efforts of the occasion. Secretary

McGaffey of the Victoria branch, explained

the objects and work of the Vancouver Island Development League at some length and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the visiting speakers for their attendance. It was a most successful and enthusiastic gathering.

The following morning I drove with Mr. Grant about the district, meeting a number of the old settlers, and seeing some of the finest farming land that ever laid out of doors. We visited Mr. Kerns, Mr. Bridges, and others, and drove through valleys which were simply dreams of beauty and prosperity. At Mr. Halliday's farm we met the secretary's two sons, setting in corn for silo purposes, and all along the road the farmers were busy. Here I saw the Mc-

League that evening. Tea, cakes, toast, not to mention other means of cheering the traveler were constantly urged upon us, and I shall not soon forget the real old-fashioned hearty kindness of the people of the Comox District.

After leaving the Courtney hotel when we had finished luncheon, we met Adam McKelvey, the pioneer, and he insisted on our coming in to see him. Mr. Grant was obliged to go with the road overseer to see a strip of highway in the near vicinity, so I was left to accept the invitation. Mr. McKelvey insisted on my eating another dinner on top of the one I had just devoured, and also poured out some more tea for me. It was a case of almost being killed

Cumberland. I saw there grand timber indeed. Scores of logs running 90 to 98 feet and some a hundred feet or more.

From the camp we went into the town of Cumberland, where I put up at the hotel. Cumberland has a wide-awake and aggressive aspect. Its stores are large and well-stocked, and it has the unmistakable look of a town that is decidedly "on the move." Its custom-house and post-office building, just erected under the supervision of a Victoria architect, is one of the handsomest and most complete structures of the kind on the island. Its school building is also one of which the town has good reason to be proud of, and a well-fitted hospital for the

"hustling" for the Cumberland District and for the League. Mr. Wilson's talk was very favorably received.

Mr. Shaw's address took up the question of Japanese naturalization, and was an able presentation of the question. His handling of the subject showed a thorough knowledge of the matter, and that his audience was heartily in sympathy with his views was evidenced by their spontaneous applause at the conclusion of his argument. Secretary McGaffey, of the Victoria Branch, Vancouver Island Development League, reviewed the work of the Development League and spoke of his pleasure at having had the opportunity to visit the noted Comox and Cumberland District. He urged unity of action and interest in the different leagues, and predicted a successful campaign for the coming year. A vote of thanks to the visiting speakers from Courtney and Victoria was passed unanimously.

The next day I went down into mine No. 4 with Mr. Wilson, the Cumberland League's secretary, who is the electrician for the Wellington Colliery company at Cumberland. It was a very strenuous experience. We first walked to the mine and then descended down an inclined plane to the centre of the mine, along a railway where loaded and unloaded cars were being shunted back and forth in utter darkness, save for the flickering light from the tiny lamps we carried with us. Every once in awhile we had to step aside to let these cars whirl past. Whenever we stepped aside, we were in close proximity to a live electric wire carrying quite enough volts to satisfy the appetite of any ordinary man. I saw coal seams there six feet thick and extending down over two miles, and running back into the mountain for presumably many miles. Above this vein was another vein of equal thickness which was being worked, and galleries cut in each vein showed a deposit of coal which almost staggered calculation.

Coming out, we came by way of the mine road, a dusty passage filled with mules and Japanese, coming and going both ways, and making pedestrianism exceedingly difficult. However, we reached the top alive, and I am free to say my curiosity about the "true inwardness" of a coal mine has been completely satisfied. But the enormous quantity of coal in that one mine alone is a revelation. It is comparatively easily mined, too, as no shaft has been necessary in bringing it to the surface. From the top, it is shipped to Union Bay by rail, and thence by collier steamers to various ports. Through communication by rail will make Cumberland a very important point for the distribution of coal, as well as bringing its manufacturing possibilities into play. With the Courtney and Cumberland districts back of it, with their splendid resources of various kinds, there is no doubt that this part of the island will come to the front steadily and surely.

At the saw-mill in Cumberland 1,000 tons of wood-pulp material is being burned up every year, and the mill men would be glad to give this material away for nothing if anyone would pay the cost of removal. There is plenty of water-power in this district, and ample facilities for lumbering and manufacturing. Close by the mines, Comox Lake, sometimes called Huntledge Lake, is found, jutting out from splendid surrounding mountain peaks, and stretching away for miles, a beautiful sheet of clear water. Several fine trout streams flow into it, and the lake itself affords the best of fishing. There are various minerals in the mountains in the Comox and Cumberland districts besides coal, and with the introduction of railroads there would be renewed activity in mining enterprises in general. Courtney, Comox and Cumberland will one day be a thriving centre of agricultural, mining, milling and manufacturing activities, and they hold splendid attractions for the tourist, angler, hunter and traveller, from their abundance of fine trout streams, and plentiful supply of game, and their varied and magnificent scenery, perfect roads and picturesque forests.

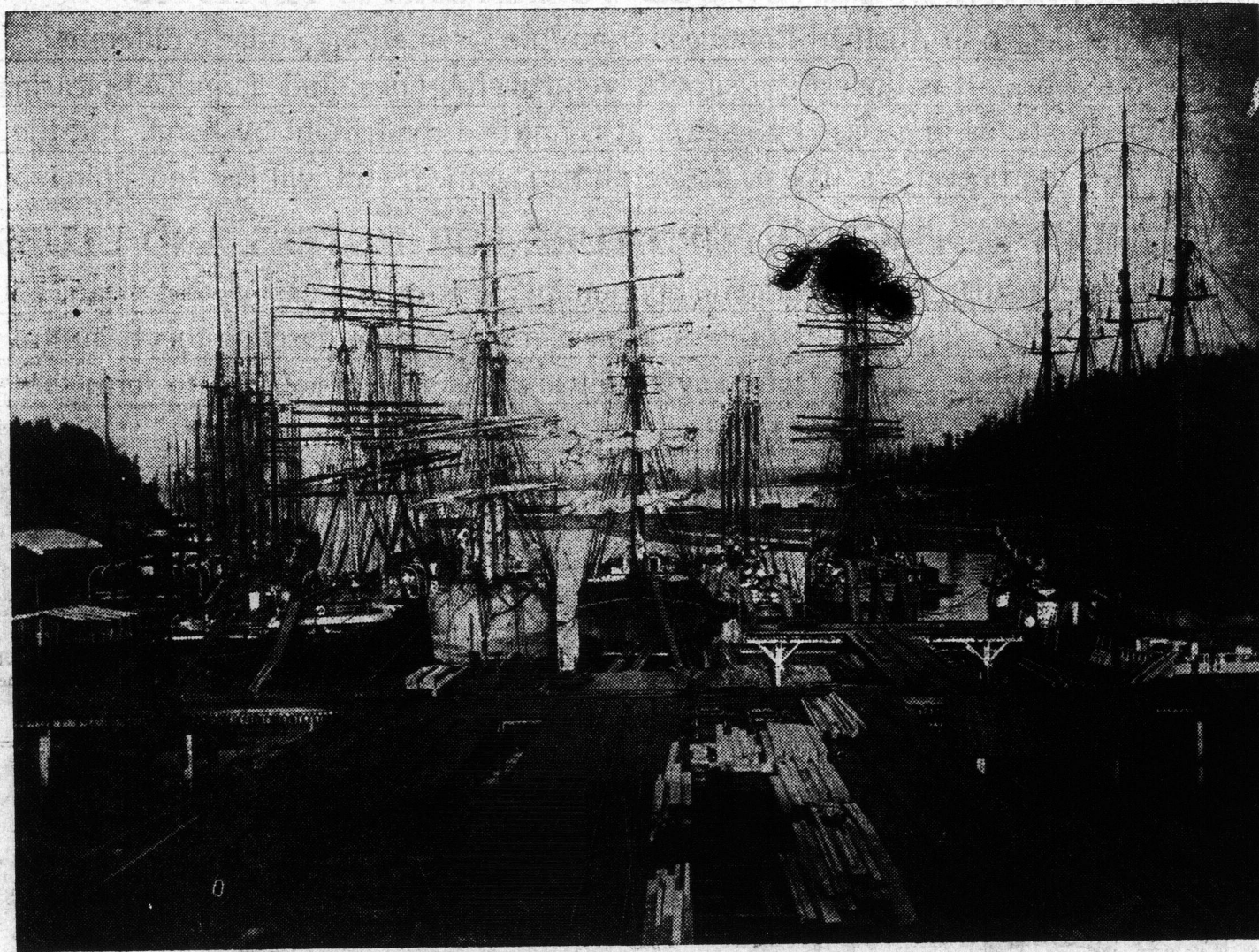
I returned from the trip to Union Bay, taking the City of Nanaimo at that point to Nanaimo, thence to Victoria, after a most delightful and instructive trip through the district; and with a wish to see it again and enjoy its manifold attractions. Arriving at Victoria, I cleared the decks of the work accumulating in the office, and took the steamer Tees for a trip to Clayoquot, Ucluelet, and the Alberni District—but that is another story.

"Will you take a chance on kissing a pretty girl?" asked the young lady with the raffle tickets at the church fair. The crusty and confirmed bachelor held up his hands in horror. "What, me!" he gasped. "No, indeed; I don't take any such chances as those. Chap took a chance like that one time and six months later he married the young lady."—Boston Post.

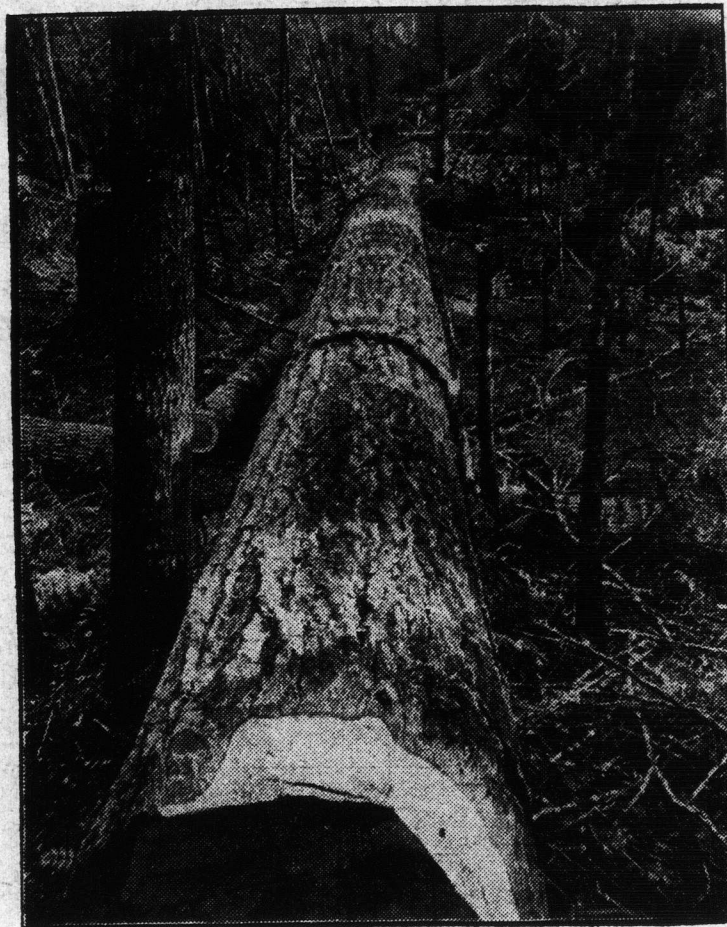
MARVELOUS SHOOTING

Count Zeppelin tells an amusing story of the case with which the German Emperor is in the habit of breaking records. On one occasion he was out shooting with the Kaiser. At the end of the day it was announced that the Kaiser had broken all records. His deer were laid before him in a long line. The photographers began to get their cameras ready. His Majesty had shot, the head keeper said, sixty-four deer. The Kaiser made no public contradiction, but, as he took up his position behind the deer for the photographs, Count Zeppelin heard him murmur to the head keeper, with a smile:

"Sixty-four deer, eh? That's very odd. Indeed, it's almost inexplicable. I only fired, you know, thirty cartridges.—Tit-Bits.



Shipping the Product of Vancouver Island's Forests to the World's Ports



A Giant of the Forest on Vancouver Island



Butt End of a Vancouver Island Toothpick

with kindness. McKelvey's history reads like a page from history. He never had any trouble with the Indians, but he said he invariably paid them for whatever he got from them, and never encouraged the "pot-latch" system on either side.

From McKelvey's we went into the timber at Grant's and Mounce's lumber

benefit of the men working in the mines, is also another institution worthy of special mention. I met Dr. MacNaughten and Dr. Gillespie of the hospital corps, and made a visit to their head office, and to the hospital. Cumberland also has a very fine volunteer fire department, and is altogether an up-to-date little metropolis.

In the evening a meeting was held at the town hall which was well attended, and which developed a great deal of enthusiasm. President Wesley W. Willard, a former Victorian, made the opening address, stating the progress of the League in Cumberland, and prophesying the future growth of Cumberland. Mr. Willard pointed out the desirability of bringing the district's resources to the knowledge of the outside world, and showed the benefits which were bound to follow where all the districts united their strength, as they were doing in the present league. His remarks brought hearty applause. President William Duncan, of the Comox League, followed with a stirring speech, and Robert Grant, M.P.P., responded next with a brief but decisive talk of the necessity of vigorous co-operation in the work of developing the district. Mayor McDonald followed with a talk on the advantages of Cumberland as a mining and manufacturing centre, and avowed his full accord with the objects of the League. J. B. Holmes, J. Stewart, J. McPhee and Robert Shaw also addressed the meeting, and Robert C. Wilson, secretary of the Cumberland League gave a characteristically witty and pointed talk on the advisability of everybody getting out and

camp, and there I had the opportunity of seeing a donkey engine at work in the timber. It was a most interesting and wonderful sight to see the tremendous power of the wire cables. When once the power was applied, the huge logs would come tearing through the underbrush, over or through stumps, borne by an irresistible force towards the platform where they were to be loaded on the cars. Mr. Grant had three sons at work with this crew, and the cables did all the very hard work by an ingenious system of cross-cables and pulleys. A track built into the heart of the woods allowed of the cars taking the logs away being brought up to the edge of the platform, and twice a day the train of flat cars was loaded and sent down to be transferred to the main track and shipped in to the mill at

Everywhere we went we were received with the utmost hospitality. Mr. Grant's evident popularity was shown by the invariable invitations we had to tea, or a "sure drapple" of something or other, and I am sure if I had accepted one-third of the kind offers of refreshment tendered me, I should never have been able to have appeared before the Cumberland

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faster among the clergy than the faster on the "Catholic" than the "side."

attempt is made to draft a new Orubric, it can only be made in a compromise; that is, in the direction of diversity of use or allowing of artistic vestments; for rubrics can much more than give sanction to ex-pertices. But it is certain that a ve-oposition would come from the party, and there might even be. Their attitude is that of no com-They claim to be alone the true chil-reformed English Church. They are exclusive, and intolerant of any the Church but their own. They prove of a decidedly Protestant turn to the rubrics and to the Prayer-rally; but no other.

is fully known to the working therefore they deprecate the wast- and energy upon a futile attempt

It all looks so easy to people who from a little distance. The states-

the politician wonder why the do not act. And the Bishops and

ed clergy," who are chiefly ap-

the advice of statesmen and politi-

to share this more independent and

of such matters. But let it be

and that the clergy, as a rule, are

of difference of view and of

are their flocks; perhaps because

more, and read more, both of his-

of human nature. It is not from

ance and narrowness of view that

clergy are strongly against re-

is because they realize the difficul-

er, it is obvious to the parish

every year that goes by tends to

erities, to draw the best men of all

gether and make them respect each

rits. The "broad" views of the mod-

Churchmen are not so far from the

ne neo-Evangelicals. These men, on

are ashamed and tired of the ex-

es of their own friends. More and

Church the men of any school who

do good work receive the warmest

In the face of the social revolu-

is proceeding around us, we cannot

waste time over ritual.

ng Room

it take thousands of years to work out

the whole combinations that can be

used with these locks. A little while

ago at Cranery Lane a renter forgot

his combination, and it took the

ers a whole week to get the door open.

Another popular London safe de-

posit is that to be found at Herod's

stores. One is not surprised to learn

that it is well patronized by ladies.

The fact that it is in the very centre

of the establishment adds additional

safety to its users, for the would-be

thief has no means of knowing what

ther a renter leaving the building has

come away with an ordinary purchase

of not particular value or a diamond

necklace from the safe deposit. Then

the deposit itself is built of concrete

and steel, and is absolutely fire-proof,

and, for that matter, burglar-proof.

If the whole building was burned

down the safe deposit would remain

absolutely intact. The entrance is

gained through a three-ton door fit-

ted with this lock, capable of oper-

ating from one hour to three days.

Passing the grill one emerges into

the manager's office, and is virtually

one surrounded by large and small safes

containing priceless treasures. Un-

doubtedly there are many valuable

jewels in this deposit. In one safe,

rented by the sister of a foreign mon-

arch, there is a magnificent collection

of pearls. Another lady renter right

locks up in her safe a costly diamond

key, which she presents to her by the

Corporation. She only removes it

wear on special occasions. She brings

it back next morning done up like an

ordinary parcel, to deposit it again

on until the next festive occasion.

Anyone, of course, can hire the safes

in the various safe deposits by paying

the necessary rent, and it is not sur-

prising to learn that occasionally per-