

ascending the Frazer about April, and then begins the busy time at New Westminster, as there are four or five establishments there for canning the fish. It is amazing to see the countless myriads of salmon that work their way up the river, never to return alive to the sea, for even after spawning they still struggle onward and upward in the face of countless difficulties until they finally die of exhaustion. Might not this noble fish serve as an example of what perseverance will do in overcoming seeming insuperable obstacles? They ascend the Frazer and its tributaries some hundreds of miles, even to Tete Junes' Cache. A few ascend the Nicola river, where I have seen them with their skin worn off, and what remained of their nose, fins and tail in an exceedingly delapidated condition. Alas, poor salmon! What a pitiable sight you present now! So changed from that noble creature, who started, in all the glory of his scaly panoply, to dare the dangers of eddy and whirlpool, of rapid, rock and waterfall! Truly thy courage were deserving of a better fate, since thy body washed upon the banks of the stream doth but serve as food for beasts and birds of prey! The second run of salmon commences towards the end of June—these fish are a distinct species from those composing the first run. All along the Frazer the Indians catch the fish and dry them; this forms the chief article of their food, and is pronounced by them to be "delate skukum muck-a-muck," Chinook for "very good grub." The "*Honlican*" or "Sweevy" is a small fish that ascends the Frazer and is caught at New Westminster in large quantities. This little fish being oily is said to make a superior substitute for cod liver oil, and is far more palatable. What a chance for some philanthropist to distinguish himself by extracting the oil for medicinal purposes!

Sturgeon weighing a thousand pounds have been caught in the Frazer near Westminster, and one was captured at Slope some years ago weighing 1,400 pounds; they are boneless, strange to say, and different from the eastern sturgeon. The *whiting* are also very plentiful and are caught with a stick armed with sharp prongs. This stick is fixed in a handle like a rake and moved backwards and forwards in the water thus impaling the fish, which are then transferred to the canoe. At Westminster there are several saw mills which all appear to be in a flourishing condition.

About nine miles north of New Westminster is the port of Burrard Inlet, the future terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is a deep and sheltered harbor. The two largest lumber mills in the colony carry on their operations here. The mill on the south side of the Inlet is called the "Hastings," and is superintended by Mr. J. A. Raymur, a gentleman eminently fitted for the post. The Moodyville mill, situated on the northern side of the inlet, is owned by Welch, Rithel & Co., and superintended by Mr. Hugh Nelson, lately appointed Senator for Cariboo (B.C.). These mills turn out a great quantity of lumber which is transported to China, Australia, South America, &c. The Douglas Fir, from which the lumber is cut, grows to a great size and is free from knots owing to the height of the tree, which is very often 300 feet. Many of the trees measure from 6 to 8 feet when squared. Circular saws are placed one above the other and are capable of sawing very large trees. Each mill employs about fifty white men and a number of Indians. The Inlet promises to be a prosperous place, and as a railway terminus has many advantages. The mills and shipping are under the medical superintendence of Dr. W. W. Walkem, a son of Queen's.

While at the Inlet I had an opportunity of witnessing the mode in which the bald-headed eagle procures the fish that the osprey or fish-eagle snatches from the water. As soon as the osprey has "struck" a fish the eagle, who has been watching the movements of the fish

hawk, gives chase. Then commences an exciting contest for the possession of the prey. Up and down, now this way, now that—the pursued seeks to gain some advantage over the pursuer, but to no avail, for although the osprey can turn in a shorter compass than the eagle, the former is burdened with the fish, which, from exhaustion, it is finally forced to drop, then the eagle swoops down and catches its booty before it reaches the earth or water. The raven has also a peculiar mode of fishing. While the tide is out the hogs, which are very plentiful around the Inlet, root in the soft mud for clams. The bird perches himself on the pig's back, and as soon as a clam is uprooted darts down, snatches the dainty morsel and flies away with it. To break the shell the raven drops the clam on a rock. He then descends and greedily devours the contents.

Taking the steamer at New Westminster we ascend the Fraser as far as Yale, 90 miles above our starting point and the head of navigation on this river. On account of the shallowness of the Fraser, between New Westminster and Yale, the steamers are flat-bottomed and propelled by a stem wheel. Yale is now what one might call a hamlet, but in early days during the gold excitement it was quite a stirring place. It is one of the Hudson Bay Co.'s posts, one of few which now remain in this country.

Yale was one of the earliest gold camps established in the Fraser, and it is to this fact, combined with its being the head of navigation that it owes its present importance. The gold is found in the banks and bed of the river. The black sand in which the metal is found is scooped up and put into what is called a rocker, a three sided box covered on the top with perforated sheet iron. It has a false bottom of copper placed at an angle between the sheet iron and the real bottom. The sand containing the gold dust is thrown on to the sheet iron and the box rocked or shaken while water is poured on the sand. The gold and fine sand fall through the holes on to the copper plate where the gold adheres to the copper, and as the plate has a slant towards the open end of the box the sand is washed off by the water. Thus the gold is separated from the coarser sand and gravel. The plate is then taken and the gold washed off by dashing water against it, and as there is always more or less sand mixed with the gold dust after this treatment, in order to separate them they are mixed with quicksilver which forms an amalgam with the gold and leaves the sand. The amalgam is then placed over a fire, and the quicksilver evaporates leaving the gold. Great danger attends this operation, the fumes of the mercury being very poisonous and many a man becomes salivated. Many a good story is told of the miners and mining in early days. The following are two or three specimens. The country in early days was infested with lice, and miners especially used to be alive with these predacious insects. One day a new comer to the mines saw a man sitting on a rock turning his shirt inside out, "What are you about, Bill, searching for fleas?" asked the new comer. "Fleas! Do you take me for a dog? It's lice I'm alookin' for." The miners often amused themselves by what one might call "louse races." Two or three "grey backs" are placed on a plate or sheet of white paper. The owner of each racer places a lighted match behind his pet and the one that reaches a certain mark or goal first of course wins the race. He is then put tenderly back into his owner's bosom.

From Yale to Cariboo, a distance of 300 miles, a beautiful waggon road has been built at a great expense. Along the road mile posts have been placed. Two Irishmen were once travelling on foot to Cariboo and one of them noticing a mile post, said to the other, "Patsy, Patsy, I say walk aisy, here's a corpse, his name's Miles and he's 175 years auld. Tread aisy, Pat, tread aisy."

H. B. W.