The Crofton Gazette

AND COWICHAN NEWS

Devoted to the Mining and Agricultural Interests of Vancouver Island, Texada Island, and Coast Mainland Districts.

VOL. 1. CROFTON, B. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1902. NO. 5

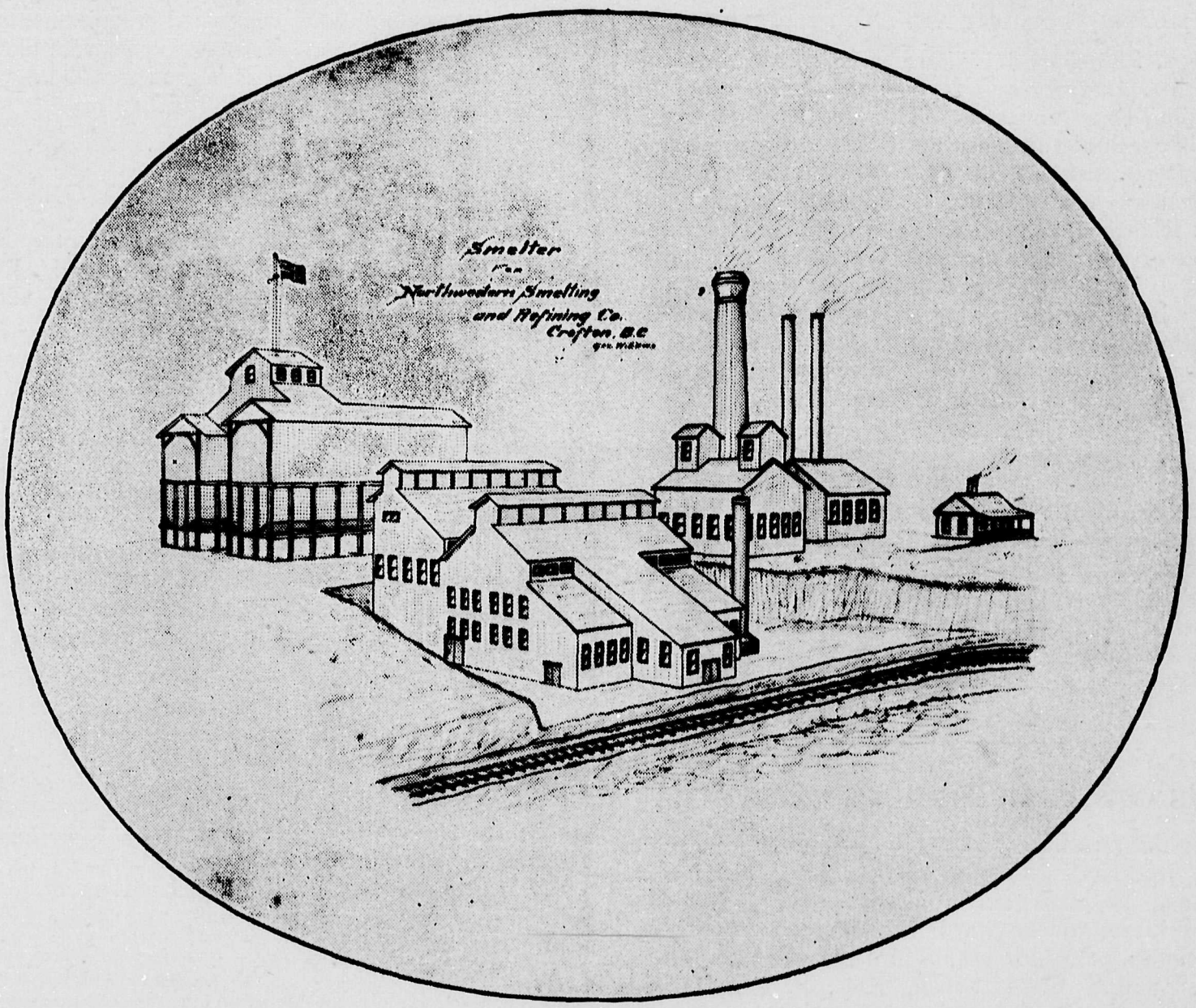
THE SMELTER SITE.

WORK on the smelter site at Crofton has now assumed proportions which may be interestingly compared with the accompanying illustration of the smelter buildings as they will be when completed.

The site of the main excavation noticeable in the illustration, is at present a busy and picturesque scene with numerous teams of horses continuously passing and intermingling in the landscape as they haul scraper fills of earth in long lines toward the shore. The greater portion of the earth to be thus moved has been so taken out, and the excavation already made begins to to assume the appearance shown in the illustration. Another week or two will see the completion of this work. A further line of excavation running to the right is also being dug out to connect the engine and boiler houses with the other works.

The excavation for the foundations of the large stack 125 feet high, is already completed and ready for masonry. This landmark as it arises, will soon be the prominant feature in the scene. A temporary line of rails has been laid to the site of the ore houses at the back, on the left.

On the right, just out of the way of the excavators, the ground is encumbered with lumber. Here numbers of carpenters are at work framing the buildings that are to be erected. The work of excavation has now proceeded so far that building may be commenced at once. An engine shed, with small engine for hauling material from the shore, is set at the back. The earthwork platform running along the shore in the foreground, with a line of rails, is already a feature.



THE SMELTER.

A large part of the lumber for building is on the ground, and the remainder is contracted for. The chief contractors, Messrs. Sherbourne & Smith, have given out sub-contracts for the ironwork, and the quarrying and hauling of stone, gravel and sand, to the building site. The entire work will now proceed rapidly.

A hundred and more men are busy upon the scene daily, and carpenters' shops, and other necessary erections are springing up on every hand.

LENORA-MT. SICKER MINING NEWS.

THE Lenora Company have struck high-grade ore in the crosscut in No. 3 tunnel. This is the same ore of which the first assay went over $500 per ton. This high-grade ore has now been proved in five different places and is, without doubt, continuous. The fact of this high-grade ore being proved goes to show that Mt. Sicker will not only depend upon its sulphide ores, but also on its gold and silver ores.

The company are putting in a modern ore-sorting plant capable of treating 250 tons a day, and provision is being made for this to be duplicated if necessary. The trestle over the E. & N. railway is practically completed, and the laying of rails on the extension to Crofton is proceeding rapidly. The company will resume shipments of ore about the 15th April, when it is expected that over 200 tons of ore will be sent daily to the Crofton smelter.

Two 20-ton Shay-geared locomotives will be used for hauling ore to the smelter, a third locomotive being held in reserve in case of accident.

MESSRS. RHINEHART AND CO'S PROPERTIES.

Messrs. Rhinehart & Co. are energetically proceeding with exploratory and development work on their Chemainus river properties. They are driving a tunnel and will continue this work until they strike the ledge. Exploratory work has led to the belief that the ledge dips at an angle of 45 degrees, and assuming this to be so Mr. Rhinehart calculates to reach the ore body at a distance of another seventy or seventy-five feet. Indications so far are very good. The schist through which drifting is being carried has shown very heavy copper stains throughout. Several other claim owners in this new district are waiting to see the result of the work which Messrs. Rhinehart & Co. have in hand.

THE YREKA CO.

Mr. N. S. Clarke leaves for the northwest coast of the island by the Queen City, on her next voyage. He goes to superintend the development of the Yreka Copper Co's claims on Quatsino Sound. He has just sent up a further batch of 15 men to work for the company. The results of development work on the Yreka mine at Mt. Richards continue to be very satisfactory.

THE COWICHAN FARMER'S INSTITUTE

A regular meeting of this association will take place on 5th April next, at 2 p.m., in the Agricultural hall, Duncans. Besides general discussion of agricultural questions, two addresses will be delivered. The Hon. C. L. Smith, of Minnesota, will lecture on "Forage Crops," and S. C. Anderson, Esq., of Ontario, on "Root Growing." A large attendance of members is anticipated, both speakers being well known and much appreciated as lecturers on agriculture.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT CROFTON.

At a public meeting held in the townsite estate office on Monday, 24th inst. Mr. M. J. Conlin was elected to the chair, and Capt. McIntosh to act as secretary. The chairman stated the primary object of the meeting, which was to respectfully approach Mr. H. Croft with a view to securing sidewalks for the streets, as also a reliable water supply for the town. This last was urgent with the dry weather coming on.

Messrs. Pearce, McIntosh, Kirkwood, Dyke, Broadwell and G. A. Allen, spoke to the resolution, and it was agreed to lay a statement before Mr. Croft. At the same time the consensus of opinion was that matters might safely be left in the hands of Mr Croft himself with his large interests in the place, and his well-known progressiveness.

Mr. Lindsay, the newly-appointed sanitary inspector, then opened a discussion on the proper precautions to be taken with regard to the sanitary arrangements of the new town. It was resolved to disallow cesspits, and to insist on water-tight urinals and dry-earth closets, and on proper drainage and disinfection of the different premises. All present were unanimous in deciding to inaugurate a complete practical system of sanitation from the outset and abide by it.

The fire wardens, Messrs. Conlin, Pearce and Whitingham, then introduced discussion upon fire matters. Mr. M. J. Conlin, it may be remembered, was for some years assistant chief of the Victoria fire brigade. The meeting was most unanimous, and showed anxiety and willingness to comply with suggested requirements as to the lining and placing of stove pipes, roof plates, etc. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

DEER SHOOTING OUT OF SEASON.

Billy Thorne, a well-known Indian hunter, was brought up before James Maitland-Dougall, Esq., charged with shooting deer out of season and within the precints of Duncans. Mr. A. H. Lomas, the provincial constable, prosecuted, and Mr. W. R. Robertson, the Indian agent, watched the case on behalf of the accused.

The Indian pleaded guilty, but stated that Mr. Robertson had given him to understand that his conduct was legitimate. Mr. Robertson bore out this view, and said that a statement of his to the accused might unquestionably have been construed in this manner.

To meet the justice of the case and at the same time to uphold the provisions of the Act, the magistrate accordingly ordered a conviction, but did not impose any penalty.

NEW CONTRACTS.

Messrs. Sherbourne & Smith, the chief contractors for the smelter building have given Mr. J. Robertson of Victoria, the sub-contract for the iron work.

We believe that Messrs. Keast & Lewis have secured the contract for delivering stone, also sand to the smelter works.

We understand that Mr. Geo. Lewis has taken a contract from the Cowichan Lumber Co. to cut 7,000,000 feet of lumber at Cowichan lake, and deliver same at salt water.

Mr. J. Sayward, of Victoria, and the Chemainus mills, are supplying most of the lumber for the smelter construction.

Mr. and Mrs. H. de M. Mellin and family have moved into their new residence near Duncans. This property owned by Mrs. Finlayson, of Victoria, has lately been held by Mr. A. H. Lomas, and Mr. Mellin is renting it whilst his new estate at Somenos is being got into shape.

PLUMPER'S PASS.

Galiano island is one of the prettiest and pleasantest of the numerous islands around our coast. At its southernmost extreme is of course the pass through which steamers make the voyage from Vancouver to Victoria. Plumper's Pass is quite a lively summer habitation in the season. On both sides of the pass on Galiano island and on Mayne island are scattered many good farms and comfortable residences. Here is quite a social centre and a great tourist resort. Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Maude are going to run the hotel this year at Point Comfort. They have bought a number of pleasure boats and horses. There is quite an English element here, and bachelors are numerous. The climate is good and the fishing, boating, bathing and hunting opportunities are excellent. Of late the residents of the Pass have had several dances, and the Galiano Amateur Dramatic Society gave a first-class entertainment in aid of the new organ for the church. The programme consisted of a piece called "Betsy Baker." Mrs. A. Cayzer, Mrs. Stewart and Messrs. T. Cayzer and Worge, comprised the cast. There was a large and appreciative audience, and another performance will shortly be given.

Spring seems to be hovering round. Violets are out, and the plum trees in blossom.

There is a pretty little church in the bay, in which the Rev. Canon Paddon of Victoria, officiates on alternate Sundays.

It is a beautiful sail among the islands between Galiano, Mayne, Salt Spring and Kuper islands to Osborne bay.

Mr. William Cayzer of Galiano, was out last summer with J. H. Gray, Esq., C.E., on the Kitimat-Hazelton survey. There is quite a settlement of Cayzers in the vicinity.

Mr. T. Cayzer, a well-known resident, has been working for Mr. Page, the postmaster, on his beautiful ranch in the valley, reached by a charming walk through pine and fir forest.

Communication with the islands is carried on by the steamer "Iroquois," which calls at Plumper's Pass on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The "Charmer" and numerous other steamers pass daily.

Mr. Murcheson is putting up a wharf for a large contract of steamer wood. The pile driver was towed over from Salt Spring island, and the steamer chartered by Mr. Raynes, the government agent.

There is no mining on the island, the rock being chiefly sandstone and conglomerate. But there are seams of coal. The coal rights are owned mostly by the Vancouver Coal Co. There is a quarry on Saturna island, owned by Mr. Taylor, and this affords a good deal of work.

Quite a lively summer is expected at Plumper's Pass. Numbers of families are coming from both Vancouver and Victoria to spend the warm months and enjoy the fine air and the views at Point Comfort. The hotel at the Point is quiet and home-like and in keeping with the name of the place.

Mr. Geo. Thomson, the very eminent copper metallurgist of New York, has been staying at the Tzouhalem hotel, Duncans, during the past week or two in consultation with Mr. C. Livingston, managing director of the Tyee Co., and Mr. Thomas Kiddie, the newly appointed smelter manager. These gentlemen have together visited the Tyee property on Mt. Sicker, and the smelter site at Ladysmith. The construction of the Tyee smelter at Ladysmith is of course the object of their consultations.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1902.

THE ALBERNI RAILWAY.

THE inhabitants of Alberni have presented a lengthy and comprehensive memorial to the Premier of the Province, urging both upon the Provincial and Dominion governments the strong claims of Alberni to railway connection with Victoria and the main line of railway through the island. The natural claims of Alberni and the West Coast to some sort of railway accommodation is a hardly disputed fact. Ways and means for such railway construction have even been practically discussed. Difference of opinion, chiefly political, alone comes in as to the route across the island which the proposed railway should take.

The inhabitants of Nanaimo and district naturally want a line with its starting point in their town. They have held meetings and left no stone unturned to publicly impress the government authorities with the advantages of their route. The result is that the government have promised to put a surveying party in the field as soon as weather permits, to make a survey of a possible line from Nanaimo to Alberni. The enterprising townspeople of Nanaimo will doubtless not rest here, but we shall hear of lots of other public meetings and further delegations in support of their object.

Meanwhile, what are the inhabitants of the Cowichan district doing to secure the alternative Cowichan valley route for the new railway to Alberni? So little indeed, that a new comer might with ample reason conclude that we are apathetic in the matter. We have the fairest and broadest grounds to claim that a railway through the Cowichan valley would tap a country richer in agriculture, mining and lumbering than any other of equal extent on the whole island. The Victoria Board of Trade at several meetings have deliberately resolved that the Cowichan valley route to Alberni is the most feasible and useful. The Victoria board are further pressing this view upon the authorities. In this respect the inhabitants of Cowichan have a powerful and influential body working for their interests. But no matter how august a public body may be, its hands and acts can always be strengthened by the resolutions of public meetings and by the assistance of properly appointed deputations acting as mouthpieces of the popular view. From a public point of view the inhabitants of Cowichan have hardly as yet made a move to secure the great advantages of this railway running through their district. It is not that public interest in the matter is not keen, but so far public expression has been lacking.

It is not too late. Even the most informal public meetings exert their influence in politics, and all railway schemes are essentially political questions. But we would urge more than this. We would like to suggest some permanent public organization of opinion and interests in this district. Ladysmith has its Board of Trade already. Cowichan has its municipality and its deep-rooted foundations of prosperity. We hope Cowichan will also ere long have a local Board of Trade, or some other similar public body to ventilate the great and varied, though at present scattered and unorganized agricultural, mining and mercantile interests of this old settled district.

Mr. Henry Croft paid a visit to Crofton on Sunday. He came through from Mt. Sicker where he has been organising preparations for further work on the Lenora mine, and expediting the construction of the Mt. Sicker railway extension. Best of all he brought the splendid news that the Lenora Company have made a rich strike of high-grade ore at the lowest level of the mine workings.

The public meeting held at Crofton on Monday is of good augury, showing so distinctly the practical business ideas which animate our prominent citizens, as also their public spirit, and the mutual feelings of good will and a desire to work loyally together, which characterised the proceedings throughout.

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THE COWICHAN LAWN TENNIS CLUB.

THE annual general meeting of the Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club was held at the Tzouhalem hotel on Thursday, March 13th. The following members being present: Messrs. J. Maitland-Dougall, C. Rivaz, A. H. Lomas, J. Musgrave, J. Robertson, A. Johnston, D. Alexander, jr., L. A. Knox. Mr. Robertson was elected to the chair. The secretary-treasurer, Mr. J. Musgrave, read the minutes of last year's general meeting and presented the accounts of the past season which showed a substantial balance of cash in hand. The following officers were elected for the current year: President, Mr. Pimbury; committee, Messrs. Elkington, Barkley, W. N. Musgrave, A. H. Lomas, J. Maitland-Dougall, L. A. Knox; secretary-treasurer, C. Rivaz. After some discussion the following resolution was moved by A. H. Lomas, seconded by T. A. Knox, and carried unanimously: "That rule 3 of the club, which reads as follows: 'The subscriptlon for ordinary members shall be $2.50 per annum and family tickets $5.00, admitting parents and their children,' be amended to read after the word parents 'their daughters and sons under 21 years of age.'" There being no other business the meeting adjourned with a hearty vote of thanks to the president, Mr. Pimbury, and the retiring officers.

To the kindness of Mr. J. Musgrave, the retiring secretary, we are indebted for the following facts about the origin of this flourishing institution. The Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club, which has just completed its 14th season, was organised by a few lawn tennis enthusiasts in 1887 and has steadily increased in popularity and and membership until at the present time it has a roll of nearly 100 members. The club grounds are situated on Mr. Pimbury's beautiful property overlooking Cowichan bay; the grounds being lent for this purpose by Mr. Pimbury, to whose unfailing courtesy and generosity the members of the club owe their many pleasant afternoons. The club grounds consist of four courts, and a meeting is held every Saturday afternoon when tea is supplied by the ladies of the club—a rather serious undertaking when one considers that it is no uncommon thing to see seventy-five or eighty members on the grounds during the afternoon.

[We regret exceedingly that owing to a mistake the above report was omitted from publication in our last issue].

SUDDEN DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT.

George Hutchison, an old man between 70 and 80 years of age, and a well-known eccentric character in the district, was lately found dead in his cabin, near Duncans. He had long been a pensioner upon the municipality and the kindness of neighbours, and though he was always more or less feeble and ailing in health his death was sudden and unexpected. He was a citizen of the United States, and negotiations had, from time to time, been carried on between the Provincial Secretary and the American government with regard to his return to his own country. These had just been brought to a satisfactory conclusion and his journey had been arranged for, but death intervened at the last moment. The old man got his wish in a way for he declared that he would never leave the district. Coroner J. Norcross and Dr. D. G. Perry held an inquiry as to his death, the doctor stating the immediate cause to be heart disease, and that diseased had been dead probably three days before he was discovered.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Kiddie are staying at the Tzouhalem, Duncans

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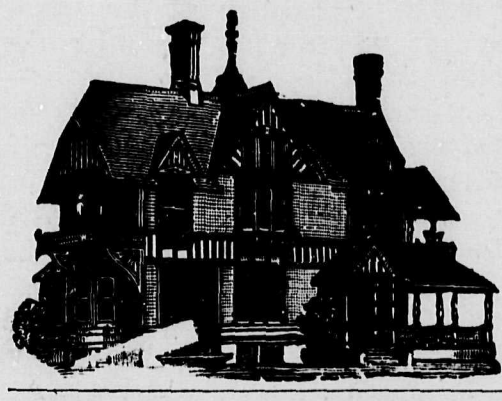
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Duncans and Cowichan Local News.

LOCAL NOTES.

Mr. Andy Forrest is in Duncans on business.

The Messrs. Edgson have been busy hauling lumber to the Yreka.

Mr. F. Price has gone down to Victoria to buy horses for his Cowichan lake stage team.

Dr. R. N. Stoker, of Cowichan lake, got a big basket on the 15th. The fish averaged about 2 lbs.

Mr. Harry Fry, P.L.S., is up the Koksilah valley surveying for the Cowichan Lumber Co.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Sherbourne are staying at the Tzouhalem hotel, Duncans, with their little son.

C. Dickie, Esq., M.P.P., spent his week-end respite from parliamentary turmoils at his home in Duncans.

Mr. W. E. Blythe's newcomer has been seen in Duncans the last few days driving about in a perambulator.

Mr. H. Keast has put his new stage on the Crofton and Westholme line. It was built by Merton, of Victoria.

Mr. Henry Croft and Mr. Berridge of the Lenora Mt. Sicker Co., have been "up the hill" on a business visit of several days duration.

It is believed that there will be three double-train services every week after the 29th inst. The extra trains will be run on Wednesdays.

Mr. McAffee, of the Hudson Bay Co., and Mr. Wallace, of Mowat & Wallace, caught 62 trout the other day in Somenos lake.

Mr. E. M. Skinner, P.L.S., has returned to Duncans from the Malahat district, where he has been surveying some mineral claims for Messrs. Dickie and Wood.

Miss H. E. Jones is giving up the matronship of the Chemainus hospital from the 1st April, much to the regret of her numerous friends in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Harry Smith has arrived safely in England. He finds great changes in the old country after his long absence of 29 years; but he won't be happy till he gets back to B. C.

Mr. Morten came down from the lake on Friday. He has been superintending the new improvements at Messrs Price Bros., Cowichan lake hotel, and has also been securing mining properties.

Mr. W. A. Woods has bought the property held by the trustees of the Methodist church at Maple Bay. He is going to build upon it at once, and has already done a good deal of slashing.

Messrs. Riblet and Painter, both of Nelson, B.C., have been in Duncans in connection with the aerial tramway which it is proposed to build from the Tyee mine to a point near Somenos on the E. N. railway.

Trout fishing has comenced in real earnest. Major Jones and Mr. C. J. Prior, of Messrs. Eberts & Taylor, of Victoria, have been down at Duncans securing large baskets from the Cowichan river. They stayed at the Tzouhalem hotel.

Mr. Geo. Maupin is down from the Chemainus river mines on a visit to Duncans. He reports all well in the mining district, but the trails are bad. He accomplished a record on his way down, making the eighteen odd miles in a little over five hours.

We regret that in a recent issue a printer's error gave Mr. Beaumont Boggs as the name of the Tyee cook at Mount Sicker who lately met with a nasty accident to his head. This should have been our popular neighbour Mr. Charles Beamont, of Maple Bay. We are glad to hear from Dr. Perry that he is recovering satisfactorily.

A railway car seen standing in Duncans station of late had come all the way from Winnipeg, laden with Hungarian flour direct from Ogilvie's mills. It was consigned to Duncans' enterprising merchant, Mr. W. P. Jaynes. This is the first equally large direct consignment brought into the district.

Mr. S. C. Bell, the well-known proprietor of the Cowichan meat market, has gone to the hospital at Victoria to have an operation performed, and the sympathies of many friends go with him. During his absence he has left his brother, Mr. J. T. Bell, in charge of the market, assisted by Mr. J. Marsh, who used to be cook at the Tyee, and Mr. H. Webster. Mr. S. C. Bell is a Crofton lot-holder.

Mr. O. Smithe, nephew of Mr. Geo. Keir, met with an unfortunate accident last week through the falling of his horse as he was riding into Duncans. It was at first thought that his arm was broken, but Dr. Perry on examination, found only a bad sprain. This being attended to by the doctor, Mr. O. Smithe was able to proceed on his way home.

Messrs. J. E. Williams and Tom Melrose, brother to the man that was killed on the Tyee, were passing up shingles for the roofing of the Quamichan hotel when the scaffolding broke and they fell on to the verandah. It was a twenty-foot fall. Mr. Williams unfortunately met with an injury to his spine. Mr. Melrose had the skin taken off his leg from the knee down. Both are improving satisfactorily under Dr. Perry's treatment.

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VICTORIA——AND——VANCOUVER.

CROFTON UP TO DATE.

Mr. F. Young, C.E., has recently been taking levels with a view to conducting water to the town and smelter.

The two hotels are nearing completion every day. The temporary accommodation, however, supplied at both houses is ample and comfortable.

Mrs. G. A. Allen and child took up their residence in Crofton on Sunday last. Mr. G. A. Allen is superintending Mr. A. Howe's butcher shop.

Grippe has been prevalent in town. One of the latest victims was Mrs. A. B. Whittingham, our pioneer citizens. We are pleased to say, however, that her recovery has been very satisfactory.

A considerable stimulus to work has been given by the recent opening up of operations on the wharf, and on the smelter site. The piles are already driven out for more than 300 feet from the shore. The smelter site is a hive of activity.

Mr. Berridge, Mr. James Harvey and Mr. R. Jaeger, came up by the boat on Sunday and were busily engaged at the estate office. Mr. Jaeger took over the duties lately performed by Mr. Harvey in connection with the sale of lots. Mr. James Harvey went north to Skagway on Monday, and Crofton residents will miss his cheery presence and unfailing courtesy. His frequent visits to Crofton were pleasantly looked forward to by all who had business to transact with the estate.

Mr. R. Jaeger, on this his first visit to Crofton, was greatly charmed by the beauty of the scene, and impressed by the advantageous situation of the town.

TELEPHONE AND POST OFFICE AT CROFTON.

The telephone will connect with Westholme in a few days. Mr. W. Johnson has lost no time over this work.

The postmaster at Victoria is making up a special Crofton mail bag, pending the establishment of a post office. Messrs. Dyke & Kirkwood are receiving it and distributing letters, etc.

THE WHARF, CROFTON.

The work of wharf construction is now proceeding vigorously. A new contract has been given to Messrs. Sherbourne & Smith, and this enterprising firm of contractors has lost no time in bringing a pile driver round from Chemainus. This is now working daily and rows of piles are already driven well out into the bay. The new contractors will have wharfage facilities available for the "Mystery" and small steamers in a week's time, and before the end of next month their contract will be completed. The approach has been laid out and graded by the survey party. The scene of these operations is a busy one, and a large number of men are at work.

The Easter entertainment given in aid of the funds of St. Peter's Quamichan, will take place on the 31st inst. at the Agricultural hall. The programme includes: 1. Songs; 2. Mrs. Jarley's waxworks; 3. Operatta, "The Twin Sisters;" also, dancing. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments at 10.30 p.m. Admission, adults, 50c.; children, 25c.

We are pleased to hear that a number of eminent mining authorities have lately been visiting the Mt. Sicker and Mt. Richards section of the country, and that every indication points to the further introduction of American money for opening up the mines in these localities.

The lecture lately given by the Lord Bishop of Columbia in the Masonic hall, Duncans, was largely attended from all parts of the country. The Bishop delivered a learned and interesting address, illustrated by excellent lime-light views. In the course of his lecture he explained the architectural features of the principal English cathedrals, and pointed out the symbolic ideas wrought into them by their fervent and devotional builders. His large audience spent a most enjoyable and instructive evening.

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