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...THE...

Crofton Gazette

and Cowichan News

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

J. H. WHITTOME,
Agent for London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., Royal Insurance Co.
Duncans, V. I.

VOL. 1. CROFTON, B. C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1902. No. 28

THE BLOW-IN.

FOR the benefit of Mr. Baggaley, the head of the Garretson furnace companies, and a party of interested capitalists who had come all the way from Pittsburg, and including Judge Reed, Mr. Linquist and Dr. Jackman, all officials of the chief company, Mr. H. C. Bellinger on Saturday last fired the new Garretson furnace experimentally. The last fastenings in this new construction had scarcely been secured, when it was called upon to bear the fiery ordeal. To suit the convenience of the distinguished visitors the arrangements for working, for receiving the matte, and carrying away the slag, were hastily improvised, and the first smelter on Vancouver Island was put into operation. The event, in a way, was the blowing-in of the Crofton smelter, although that establishment is or will be complete in itself entirely independently of the new furnace; the success of which, however, will undoubtedly revolutionize the smelting industry not only at Crofton but throughout the mining world.

At 10:13 a.m. on that memorable Saturday morning Mrs. H. C. Bellinger threw in the first three shovelfuls of Lenora ore, one into each door of the furnace. At 10:40 a.m. the first trickle of matte issued from one of the sight holes, and was plugged by Mr. Bellinger himself. At 11:20 the first slag burst out from the spout of the slag box with a roar like a cannon; and after a while, and some vigorous assistance from the stalwart foreman Mr. Joe Devitt, who was armed with a long iron poker, ran freely. Thus was the smelting industry inaugurated on Vancouver Island.

A little after mid-day the steamer "City of Nanaimo" which had been chartered by Mr. Baggaley and his associates arrived and landed a large party of distinguished guests from Victoria. Smelting operations were now in full blast. On the last previous occasion upon which the Garretson furnace was tried the bottom burnt out; but no mishap of any kind occurred to mar the success of this experiment. The furnace, admirably constructed by the Victoria Machinery Depot, under the direction of Mr. F. C. Garretson, did all that was asked of it. Its main feature, the conversion of the matte into blister copper, was not seriously attempted. The furnace itself stood every test, and the result was pronounced eminently satisfactory by every expert present. The raw ore straight from the mine, and this too, an ore containing over 40 per cent of baryta, was smelted with success, and thus has never been done before on so large a scale. Extensive laboratory experiments, however, will have to be made before the new furnace can be tested on its full merits. Those of the spectators who were qualified to give an opinion in the matter, one and all, expressed themselves as satisfied that, under Mr. H. C. Bellinger's skilful treatment the Garretson furnace will do all that its inventors claim for it.

At the Crofton Smelter—Six weeks ago—and present time.

All day Saturday, Saturday night, and Sunday the furnace was fed with varying charges of Lenora and Quatsino and other ores, and valuable information was acquired by the management. Mr. Henry Croft was present on both days, and amongst other visitors were Messrs. T. Bakewell, T. A. Witherspoon, and W. A. Bole of Pittsburg; the Hon. Edgar Dewdney, Col. the Hon. E. G. Prior, A. E. McPhillips, K.C., M.P.P.; Capt. John Irving, Richard Hall, M.P.P.; Geo. L. Courtney, Dr. Powell, and Sir Richard Musgrave. Mrs. Croft came to grace the event with Miss Bryden and Miss Harvey. Dr. T. J. Jones and Mrs. Jones with Miss George came on the boat from Victoria, and numerous residents in the district drove over amongst whom might be noted Mr. and Mrs. R. Barkley, Miss A. Mutter, Mr. S. Mortimer-Lamb, Mr. Geo. Mutter from Somenos; Mr. Lawle, Mr. Williams, Mr. George, Mr. Freeman and Mr. J. S. Reid from Saanich; Mr. and Mrs. Dunne, Mr. and Mrs. Master and Croftonians without exception were of course

eager to watch the inauguration of an industry the success of which means so much to the town and the district.

On Saturday evening the smelter buildings were lighted with electricity for the first time. Then it was that the spectators, unused to such a sight, had reason to become enthusiastic over the glowing scene—the red hot slag running thickly into the stream of water that was to carry it away to the sea, the molten matte hissing out of the spout and emitting livid flames of red and white and yellow where it emerged from the furnace, or occasionally exploding in a firework display of sparks where it happened to strike water, the furnace men with their long iron rods dealing with the terrifying molten stuff as they would!

On Sunday evening the furnace was emptied; but experiments will be continued in a few days time.

With regard to the new furnace, Mr. F. C. Garretson, recently interviewed by the "Times," thus describes the new process:—

"It is a little difficult to explain our system in such a way as to be quite intelligible to laymen, but I may say that the ordinary process of smelting involves the roasting and smelting of ore as separate processes to the converting of it. The ore takes six weeks in the roasting process, and in the case of a smelter treating a thousand tons of ore a day, there would have to be 42,000 tons of ore—which means the capital represented by its value tied up for the time being. The smelting process is much the same in our furnace, but we utilize the sulphur and iron in the ore as fuel which saves the cost of coke. In ordinary pyritic ore there are as many heat units as in coal.

"Also, we do away altogether with the cost of the converting plant, which is the most expensive portion of smelting plants.

"In cases where the ore is right—where it contains the necessary proportions of sulphur and iron, we do away with carbonaceous fuel, and the cost of the Garretson process is roughly just one-fourth the cost of ordinary smelting.

"After roasting it is necessary to put the ore through another process, often through an ordinary water-jacketed shaft furnace, after which you have a fifty per cent. matte to put into the convertor to be blown up into copper.

"In our furnace we take the raw ore as it comes from the mine, charge it into the top of the furnace and take out at the bottom blister copper, which is about 94 per cent. metallic copper. After that it is only necessary to refine it electrolytically to eliminate what impurities remain and separate the gold and silver.

"The difficulty with the present process has been that a high grade product could not be made without making a rich slag—too rich in mineral to be thrown away. Also, it was not considered possible to convert in a water-jacketed convertor, without lining in with fire clay and crushed quartz, which has to be frequently replaced, and it is an expensive system A number of methods of introducing silica into the converters have been tried, and they have been lined with refractory material such as magnesia, but it was found difficult to introduce the necessary silica, so as to make it combine with the oxide of iron formed in converting.

'We obviated this difficulty by converting underneath the charge in the furnace, feeding an excess silica in with the charge and converting by a row of tuyeres placed around the furnace. In this way we prevented all of the silica from being taken up at the top, and it is forced down by the weight of the charge above it as silica, into the matte where it is required.

"We are not claiming to do anything that is not entirely consistent with the laws of chemistry. We have simply combined the three existing processes, and the whole operation takes place in one apparatus. Pyritic smelting is an established fact, and the reason it is no more in use is that in order to make a sufficiently high grade matte it is essential that you run the furnace very slowly, and it is then liable to clog up. If you keep the furnace in good smelting condition the product is so low grade that has to be put through the smelter again. In our furnace we are not particular what grade of matte we get, because converting is carried on in the same vessel.

"It has always been said that if you make a high grade product you make a rich slag, but we can make a rich product and get a slean slag, because the making of the rich product is carried on below the slag level in the furnace, and before the slag gets out of the furnace it is cleansed by the low grade matte failing and being reconverted.

"We are creating an excess of heat by converting immediately under the smelter zone of the furnace. It is usually considered necessary in pyritic smelting to have a hot blast and we avoid that by putting an excess of air in the converting tuyeres and allowing it to pass through the hot matte and slag into the smelting zone above, being heated in its passage.

"The smelter itself is a rectangular shaft furnace, 38 inches wide and 161 inches long inside. The height of the jacket is 9 feet 12½ inches, with a number of 1-inch smelting tuyeres and seven-eights of an inch converting tuyeres. Its capacity will be 360 tons in 24 hours."

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MINING NEWS.

ORE SHIPMENT FROM TYEE.

THE first four carloads of ore from the Tyee mine were shipped from the bins at the end of the aerial tramway at Stratford's Crossing on the 23rd inst. They were delivered at the Ladysmith smelter bins the same day. The aerial tramway has been running satisfactorily, though not as yet very regularly.

LENORA MT- SICKER RAILWAY.

Engine No. 2 is now running on the Lenora Mt. Sicker Railway and is giving great satisfaction. The new boiler has more than answered expectations, and this little engine is now the most powerful on the line.

THE COPPER KING.

The "Copper King" property belongs to Messrs. M. Howe, J. Boyce, and E. J. Palmer, of Chemainus, and is a very promising prospect. The claim is situated some 200 yards below Nugget Creek on the Chemainus River, in the Mt. Sicker District. There is already a tunnel driven forty feet in on the lead, and the rock taken out has assayed 24¼ per cent. copper, 1 1-6 oz. silver, and a trace of gold.

QUATSINO SOUND.

Work on the Yreka Co.'s properties is progressing very rapidly. The aerial tramway is in an advanced stage of construction, and the new ten-drill compressor plant to be driven by an 18-foot Pelton waterwheel is being installed.

Mr. Pollock of the Yreka Company states that he has discovered a deposit of specular iron in the district. This is a valuable discovery as the iron is a species of hematite and has many of its properties. The deposit has been traced for some 3,000 feet and averages about twelve feet in width.

THE COPPER CANYON AGREEMENT.

The little difference of opinion between the directors and shareholders of the Mt. Sicker and Brenton Mines, Ltd., has been amicably settled, and Mr. J. S. H. Matson publishes a notice to the shareholders that after consultation with A. E. McPhillips, K.C., and the executive of the company. he is satisfied that there is not any intention on the part of the management to deal unfairly or unjustly with the interests of the minority shareholders. To absolutely prevent any further misunderstandings the respective rights of the majority and the minority holders of shares in the company have been embodied in an agreement. Mr. Matson has therefore instructed his solicitors to discontinue the action recently instituted.

IRON ON THE ISLAND.

Mr. Carmichael. the provincial assayer. is very busy these days making an exhaustive examination as far as possible of the iron deposits on the Island. He has returned from the West Coast, and is now visiting the San Juan district. A government report will shortly be published giving the result of his explorations.

NEW COPPER COMBINE.

A copper combine has been formed at Buffalo with a capital of nearly one hundred million dollars to compete with other copper interests in America. It is asserted that copper can be landed in New York at 2 cents a pound, and that the new combination can yet make their money—aided by the operation of the new Garretson furnace.

Mr. W. H. Collister, of the Albion Iron Works, Victoria, has discovered a copper prospect at Pike Lake.

Mr. R. St. C. G. Masters' new house is now all but completed, and is a handsome residence with light colored walls and red roof, and a gabled upper storey, and is being fitted up with all possible modern improvements.

Mrs. Voss, late of the Osborne Hotel, Crofton, (the domestic arrangements of which she superintended very ably for some months) has left to be housekeeper for the most popular hotel in the city. The supervision of so large an establishment as the Dominion Hotel, Victoria, will give Mrs. Voss ample scope for her abilities.

THE WESTSIDE
THE GREAT MAIL ORDER HOUSE

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THE CROFTON GAZETTE

and COWICHAN NEWS

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THE CROFTON PUBLISHING CO.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 1902.

THE EXPERIMENTAL BLOW-IN.

THE eyes of the mining world were turned on Crofton on Saturday last. It was not the regular blow-in of the Crofton smelter, but the test of a new type furnace which is to revolutionize the smelting industry. The Garretson furnace hurriedly installed by the Northwestern Smelting and Refining Company, and worked under the capable direction of Mr. H. C. Bellinger, was put under trial. So far as the experiment was carried out it worked very successfully. Blister copper was not produced at one operation from the raw ore, because no attempt was made to produce it; but matte of fair quality was produced from the wet ore brought straight from the mine, and this achievement has never been accomplished before on a commercial scale. The great object of the new furnace is to eliminate two processes from the present method of smelting copper ores. The one process referred to is that of the preliminary roasting of the ore; the other is the subsequent expensive process of converting the matte into blister copper. The trial on Saturday satisfactorily eliminated the first, and everything points to the fact that a later trial will show the way to do away with the second. In the new Garretson furnace the three operations of roasting the ore, smelting it into matte, and converting it into copper are combined in one; but the process is so subtle and delicate and depends so much on the chemical constituents of the ore, and their scientific utilization for both flux and fuel, that a hurried trial such as was possible on Saturday was manifestly out of the question. The experiment will be renewed in a few days, and expert opinions lead to the belief that it will lead to entire success.

Meanwhile the smelter is complete in itself with or without the Garretson furnace, or rather it will be complete as soon as the four converters which have just arrived shall have been installed, and the work of installation is now proceeding. When this work is finished probably not many days hence the Crofton smelter, even without the new Garretson furnace, will still be one of the best appointed on the Pacific Coast. With the new Garretson furnace working successfully the Crofton smelter will not only be the most thorough and economical of its kind in the world, but the pioneer of a new smelting industry, before which all previous methods of smelting must relapse into the limbo of the "out of date."

A PLAYGROUND FOR DUNCANS.

A correspondent draws our atention to the facts, firstly, that Duncans has at present no available playground for the children within the town limits; and, secondly, that there is to-day a nearly square plot of vacant land lying close to the creamery and extending about to forty acres which might be purchased and used for this purpose. Furthermore, there is no other equally desirable site available.

The argument of our correspondent must surely be patent to all. Duncans is a growing town. At present young Duncanites can find their own playground in the outskirts, but against the time when the town will have grown to much larger proportions, it certainly would seem right and reasonable, withal prudent and businesslike, to secure this advantage for the little ones now when it can be done at comparatively small cost.

We regret that in our account of the junior baseball match last week the names of Jas. Evans, pitcher, who made three runs, and A. B. Ford, centre field, who also made three runs, were omitted from the Duncans team. In our report of the erection for school trustees moreover a printer's error gave Mr. J. T. Pearson as the name of one of the elected trustees; it should of course have been Mr. J. T. Pearce, of the Osborne Hotel.

We had a few complaints that subscribers have not received the paper on one or two occasions. We hope that in future any subscriber who does not receive a copy every week will communicate at once with the manager, "Crofton Gazette and Cowichan News," Crofton. At the same time we crave indulgence should a day's delay be found sometimes unovoidable owing to the difficulty of canvassing so wide a district and reporting events as early as possible; combined with the necessity, (for yet a few weeks longer) of going to Victoria for printing and publication.

Victoria Terminal & Sidney Railway

FALL AND WINTER TIME CARD.

On and after September 15th, 1902, trains will run as follows:

NORTH BOUND.

Miles.	STATIONS	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
0	Victoria Central Station (leave)	7.00	12.30	4.00	2.00
17	Sidney ..... (arrive	8.00	1.10	5.00	2.45

SOUTH BOUND.

Miles	STATIONS.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M
4	Saanichton	8.45	1.30	5.10
17	Victoria Central Station.....(arrive)	9.30	2.00	61.5

Sidney and Nanaimo Transportation Company

Steamer IROQUOIS leaves daily (Sundays excepted) on arrival of 12.30 train for

CROFTON, CHEMAINUS AND NANAIMO

Arriving at Crofton at 3.30 p.m., Chemainus 4.15 p.m., Nanaimo 6.30 p.m. Returning leaves Nanaimo every morning (Sunday exceped) at 8 a.m., Chemainus 10.15 a.m., Crofton 11 a.m., arriving at Victoria 2 p.m.

STEAMER UNICAN—Mondays: Leaves Sidney on arrival of 7 a.m. train from Victoria for Fulford Harbor, Beaver Point, Ganges, Mayne Island, Fernwood, Gabriola, Nanaimo. Returning from Nanaimo Tuesday at 7 a.m., calling at Gabriola, Thetis, Kuper, Chemainus, Vesuvxius, Crofton.

WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS: — Round Trips Through the Gulf Islands. Leave Sidney on arrival of 7 a.m. train for Moresby, Peir, Fulford, Ganges Harbor, Mayne, Galiano, N. & S. Pender, Saturna. Returning, arrives Victoria at 7 p.m.. (N.B.—This is the finest tourist trip on the Pacific Coast)

THURSDAY:—Leave Sidney on arrival of 7 a.m. train from Victoria for Cowichan, Burgoyne, Maple Bay, Crofton, Vesuvius, Chemainus, Kuper, Thetis, Gabriola, and Nanaimo. Returning Friday at 7 a.m. for Sidney and way ports.

Close connections, efficient service and reasonable rates. For all additional information apply to the Company's Offices, Central Station, Market Building. Tel. 511.

J. ANDERSON, General Manager.

Crofton Up to Date.

MORE MINING MACHINERY FOR THE SMELTER.

TWOGreat Northern Railway cars have arrived containing converting machinery from the Allis-Chalmers Co. This consignment was long overdue. The erection of the four large converters is now being put through, and when finished the smelter plant will be complete, independently of the Garretson furnace. An account of an experimental "blow-in" of the latter is given in another column.

FUEL SHIPMENTS.

Coal and coke are arriving for the smelter in large quantities. The fuel is brought in barges and unloaded at the smelter slip, or if in cars, at the wharf.

NEW MAIL SERVICE.

Letters from Victoria now arrive by the E. & N. Railway and the Crofton and Westholme stage. Mr. Malcolm Elliott, the stage proprietor, carries the mail bags daily. All mails now come by this route.

A CROFTON SUBURB.

Mr. Taylor, of Taylor, Smith & Co., has recently secured some twenty-five acres situated on the hill behind the town. The land was bought from Mr. Master and Mr. Dunne, and Mr. Taylor proposes to lay it out in lots for building purposes. Taylorville (?)) will no doubt be a popular residential suburb of Crofton in days to come. Both site and views are admirable.

WEEKLY DANCES.

Since Mr. W. J. Deasy has returned to Crofton the very enjoyable weekly dances have been resumed, to the delight of all. Last week a party of Crofton dancing folk went over to Chemainus in the now fashionable straw cart, and spent a very pleasant evening at the hall there. On Tuesday last this visit was returned by a party from Chemainus, including Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, of that town. Amongst local ladies present were Mrs. Conlin, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. McDougall, and the Misses Genevieve. Winnifred and Pearl Devitt. Music was kindly supplied by Messrs. Deasy and Earl Irwin, light refreshments were served. and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all concerned.

CHANGE OF POST OFFICE.

Mr. Joel Broadwell, the postmaster, has moved the post office premises into the Croft Block. All necessary office fittings have been put in, and the new post office is both commodious and convenient.

LOCAL NOTES.

The "Copper Queen" yacht is lying neat and snug at her moorings near the wharf. She has had a new cedar deck put on her, and her owners are ready to match her against any other yacht of her size in the world. The "Banshee," of Victoria, was in harbor the other day; but as soon as the "Copper Queen" got ready to race, the "Banshee"—was gone.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Croft, Sir Richard Musgrave and party were down to see the blowing-in of the Garretson furnace. They registered at the Osborne Hotel.

Mr. Dave Spencer, of Spencer's Arcade, Victoria, has been spending several days in Crofton taking in the sights. He stayed at the Crofton Hotel.

We are glad to note Mr. G. Mesher walkink out again after his somewhat serious accident in falling off a ladder whilst working on Mr. Master's new house for the construction of which he holds the contract. Missing his footing he fell ten feet, putting his ankle out of joint and splintering the small bone. Dr. Foot has been in attendance. Mr. J. T. Pearce, of the Osborne Hotel, has been looking after him with kindness, of which he cannot speak too highly.

SPORTS AT THE FALL FAIRS.

By some people the omission of the bicycle races and athletic sports from the show this year is much regretted. It has, however long been felt, especially by exhibitors, that these sports at such a time in our little show ground were not only incongruous but inconvenient. Hence the step taken by the committee. The original intention was to have had athletic sports and bicycle races as a separate affair on Dominion Day, July 1st. In that case they would have clashed with the date fixed for the coronation festivities as originally intended; and so the idea fell through. The committee have no intention of letting the matter drop, and will consider it seriously next spring. At the last meeting much sympathy was expressed for Mr. J. Mearns, the present holder of the Maitland cup for the five mile bicycle race. The cup has to be won thrice consecutively by the same competitor to give possession. Mr. Mearns stands a mot excellent chance of becoming the proud proprietor of this handsome trophy, and though it is disappointing for him to have to postpone the event for a few months, he can none the less rest assured that the good wishes of everyone will be with him, for his ultimate success after the long wait.

H. de M. MELLIN,
Sec.-Treas. Cowichan Agricultural Associtation.

Hotel registers unavoidably crowded out this issue.

Mrs. McDougall, of Victoria, is paying her sister-in-law, Mrs. Conlin, a lengthened visit; and is much pleased with Crofton.

NOTICE.

Applications will be received by the Secretary up till noon, the 25th September, for position of School Teacher of Public School at Crofton. Salary, fifty dollars. School to open October 1st.

JOEL BROADWELL, Secretary.

FOR SALE.

Black Geldings, three years old. thoroughly broken; weight, about 1100 lbs. Apply to Malcolm Elliott, Crofton and Westholme stage, Crofton V. I.

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Stage leaves Daily connecting with North and South bound trains. Double train service Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays, connecting with morning and afternoon trains.

Fare from Crofton to Victoria: Single $2.00
Return $3.00

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Sails from Victoria, Tuesdays at 6.00 a. m., and on Saturdays at 7.00 a.m., calling at Crofton on both days, handling freight and passengers at reduced rates.

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Daily connecting with all E. & N. Railway Trains

MALCOLM ELLIOTT, - Proprietor.

Duncans and Cowichan Local News

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING.

THE Municipal Council of North Cowichan met on the 20th inst at the Council Chambers, Duncans. Present: J. N. Evans, Esq., reeve; Messrs A. A. B. Herd, C. Dobson and E. M. Skinner, councillors, and Mr. J. Norcross, clerk. A petition largely signed was presented asking the council to gravel Castley's Road, in view of Hooper Bros. moving their sawmill to that site and the heavy traffic it would entail. The petition was granted an the contract for gravelling let to Mr. E. Castley.

Mr. R. A. Wicks interviewed the council with regard to repairs on his road, and a small appropriation was made for this purpose.

Bills to the amount of $1,000 were passed by the Finance Committee and ordered paid.

The Collector reported receipts to date of $5,000.

Repairs to Maple Bay wharf were discussed at some length. Tenders for its renewal had been called for, but the finances of the corporation would not admit of its being built. It was finally decided to replank the approach at once, and renew the front part in the spring.

The health officers reported everything satisfactory in the district with the exception of Chemainus, where a certain party refuses to clean up his premises. The health officer was instructed to summons him at once for a nuisance.

The bylaws prohibiting the keeping of hogs in the several townsites, defining the duties of Reeve and Treasurer, and establishing a road at Chemainus River were all read a third time.

The Reeve introduced his bylaw regulating the width of sidewalks and the planting of shade trees.

Councillor Herd gave notice that next meeting he would introduce an amendment to the revenue bylaw to increase the wholesale liquor license to $75 for six months.

A further appropriation for the streets of Crofton was discussed and finally laid over till available funds should be ascertained, and the Reeve should visit that place and find out where the residents considered the expenditure could be made to most advantage.

Several new contracts were let, and a number were reported completed.

The Council adjourned to meet again on the 18th of October.

DUNCANS WATERWORKS.

Work has begun in earnest on the construction of a thorough waterworks system for Duncans. The bill recently passed by the Municipal Council gives the Duncans Waterworks Co. the amplest powers while at the same time guaranteeing the interests of the community and the district. Mr. E. M. Skinner, not only a popular local resident, but an eminent engineer, started work on Monday to take levels, and to locate the necessary route. He will further make a detailed plan of the town and locate the arrangement of the street pipes to supply the adjacent residences. A box flume will probably convey the water to the top of the hill above the town; thence it will be conveyed by iron pipes.

THE FALL FAIR.

The fall fair takes place on Friday and Saturday next, the 26th and 27th insts., but the chief day will be Saturday.

The following special prizes have been added to the Agricultural Show Prize List since the publication of the catalogue: For the best draft brood mare, foal at foot, a strong farm gate, value $5.00, offered by R. H. Whidden, Esq. For the best pair of white Wyandottes, and the best pair of white Leghorns, each $2.50, offered by Cecil Cree, Esq., and $5.00 donated to the Show Prize Fund by Clermont Livingston, Esq.

The cattle sheds in the hall grounds are being properly floored and partitioned off for the reception of stock. Thus a long felt want is at last being supplied. The new arrangement is more roomy, more cleanly and more comfortable for the animals.

On Saturday, 27th, the E. & N. Ry. Co. have announced cheap railway rates, $1.00 return from either Victoria or Nanaimo. There will be a Horse and Cattle Show, and Poultry, Pigs and Sheep, hurdle jumping. A splendid exhibit of fruit and vegetables is also promised. The Fifth Regiment band will be in attendance.

The Judges will be:—

For live stock, D. R. Anderson, Esq., and A. Clemons, Esq.

For horticultural exhibits, R. N. Palmer and T. Wilson, Esq.

Admission fifty cents.

LOCAL NOTES.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Persse from Galway, Ireland, have taken Mr. Musgrave's place for six months, at the end of which time we hope they will decide to make a permanent home here. They moved in on Tuesday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldy from England have rented Mrs. Rowbotham's house, Mrs. Rowbothanm having gone to live at Mayne Island.

Mrs. William Gatt is considered the luckiest woman in Duncans at the present moment. Last week she shot a big fat deer with her own rifle, and her friends' dinner tables have been groaning with venison ever since.

We are very sorry to hear that Mr. Milton Edgson has been sick for some time past.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to record the recent death of Mr. Chas. Todd Indian Agent at Metlakatla. Mr. Todd was a brother-in-law of our old and esteemed resident, Mr. W. C. Duncan, J.P., to whom our sympathies are extended.

Mrs. Saunders of Victoria is staying on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Dickie.

Mr. and Mrs. Springett from England have taken Mr. Holmes' house.

Mr. W. E. Blythe has become the fortunate possessor of the safe (made by J. & J. Taylor) which went through the Quamichan Hotel fire without damage. We do not think that Messrs. Taylor could do better than buy it up and place it in our office as a splendid advertisement.

Duncans is indeed loyal: Coronation ties are all the rage.

The fire bell sounded in Duncans on Saturday last, and the whole town turned out. The conflagration started in the bush on the hill. It was finally extinguished with a siphon of Thorpe's soda water. This beverage seems to be universal. A vessel charged with it was recently, we believe, found in the mud flats at Victoria.

A fire in the wash house on Government Road threatened the town last week, but was put out by the exertions of the Fire Company.

Mr. Bob Owen, late of the Strathcona Hotel, is now attending bar for Mr. Frank Price of the Tzouhalem.

Mr. E. H. Fletcher, post office inspector for the Dominion Government, has been paying Duncans a visit.

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Room only 50 cents to $1.50 per day.

Mr. A. Mackinnon has acquired a "New Success" potato digger—the first in the district. It is built somewhat after the manner of a plough, but is more easily adjustable. Messrs. Pitt & Peterson are the importers, through Messrs. E. G. Prior of Victoria, from Hallocks' of York, Pa.

A deal of 50 tons of potatoes is being negotiated by Messrs. Pitt & Peterson on behalf of Mr. A. Mackinnon of Somenos—may it be followed by many more such.

At the Tzouhalem Hotel during the week the following have been registered: Mr. E. H. Fletcher of Victoria; Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Kiddie of Ladysmith; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Le Leone and Mr G. H. Barnard of Victoria; Judge Harrison; Messrs. D. R. Irvine, E. Hicks Beach, and G. Mitchell of Victoria; Messrs. T. Burnside, Frank Darling and John J. Whalen of Vancouver; Messrs. B. S. Heisterman, D. A. Irvine, L. F. Blandy, E. M. Murray and H. G. Heisterman of Victoria; The Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Cooper, and Mr. F. McB. Young of Nanaimo; Messrs. R. B. Bowden and Geo. H. Ramsay of Vancouver; Mr. D. McRae, Koksilah River; Mr. Dan Savoy, Cowichan Lake; Mr. A. F. Peterson, Cosmopolis, Wash.; Mr. J. Patterson, Mt. Sicker; Mr. E. Musgrave, Miss Musgrave and Mr. W. L. Musgrave, Duncans; and Messrs. A. Robertson, J. B. Rickaby, J. B. Munn, Geo. A. Campbell, and H. W. Windle of Victoria.

The following amongst others have registered at the Quamichan Hotel during the week: Mr. E. Turbayne, Toronto; Mr and Mrs. H. Persse of Galway, Ireland; Messrs. H. Brackman and C. R. Smith of Victoria; Messrs. J. L. Gallagher, J. B. McCoy and A. J. Blomfield of Vancouver; Messrs. H. E. Campbell, E. Earkson, and W. E. Lamming, Allan Grant, R. Ross, J. Nixon, S. Colvin, W. E. Baker and W. H. Morron of Mt. Sicker; Mrs. W. H. King, Chemainus; Messrs. J. W. King and James L. Herd, Somenos; Messrs. Fred E. Beech, Thos. C. Jones, Jas McNeild, D. Hattie of Mt. Sicker; rMs. R. C. Doublas, Mrs. Grimason and Mrs. James Daley of Victoria; Mr. Abe Mayea of Cowichan Lake; Mr. H. Van Walkenburg, Toronto; Messrs. J. Ritchie, C. Macdonald, and E. H. Franklin of Victoria; Mrs. J. Bebeau, Mt Sicker; Miss Creeden, Miss M Creeden and Miss E. Creedon of Victoria; Mr. and Mrs. Bibeau, Mt. Sicker; Mr. L. H. Nicholson, Victoria; Mr. P. Clarke Steele, Toronto; Messrs. G. H. Bissell, A. Ferguson and F. M. Yorke of Victoria; Miss F. Robinson, Vancouver; Messrs. H. E. Boorman and John McMillan, Victoria; Mrs Keonig, Mr. and Mrs. C. LeLievre, Shawnigan Lake; Mr. A. Nightingale of Cobble Hill and Mr. F. Tam, Vancouver.

CUPID'S BOW.

Mr. Joe. Castley, and Miss Kathleen Dodd both of the district, were married at the Episcopal Church, Somenos, on Saturday, the 20th inst. The bride was attended by Miss Nellie Robinson, the bridegroom being supported by his brother, Mr. Jack Castley. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. A. Leaky. The wedding was a very pretty one, and afterwards the bride and bridegroom took train for Victoria honeymoonwards.

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Mt. Sicker, V. I.

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