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 20, 1902. NO. 4

JOAN AVENUE, CROFTON.

WE publish this week a photo of Joan avenue taken for Mr. Croft on the 26th of last month. Already this picture is out of date, as several new buildings have been laid down and completed since the camera was set up on the prospect. The view is taken looking up Joan avenue from the bay and the wharf site. On the right hand in the foreground is Mr. J. T. Pearce's hotel, now named the Hotel Osborne. Mr. Pearce, as will be remembered, is a well-known hotel man of Victoria, having been proprietor of the Telegraph hotel on Store street for many years, and many a city friend will wish him success in his new venture. Immediately opposite, at the left corner of the street, is Mr. M. J. Conlin's house, the Hotel Crofton. Mr. Conlin was also in the hotel business in Victoria some years ago, but has since spent his time chiefly in the north, where he has gained no little reputation for energy and goodfellowship in every venture which he has undertaken.

Both these hotels are now nearing completion, and with wide verandahs and ornamental roofs present much finer architectural features than are here suggested. Both houses are being built with a view to every possible comfort and convenience for guests, and the outlook for scenery across the bay and the islands to radiant Mt. Baker on the one hand, and the snowy peaks of Bute Inlet on the other, is a wonderfully fine view from whichever balcony you survey it. These two hotels will assuredly be favourite tourist resorts in the summer time, and rooms are already being bespoken by early residents.

A point in the foreground a little to the left of the picture lies the site of the railway station, and to the left again across a small stream, which is not shown in this photo, are the luxurious offices of the smelter company. In comparatively a few weeks time a lofty smoke stack will be raising its grimy head 125 feet into the air near by, and spluttering furnaces will be belching copper-gold matte, whilst a small army of workmen will be earning good wages on the smelting works.

Looking up the street on the left is Mr. A. Howe's butcher store, a replica of his well-known establishment next to the popular Horseshoe hotel at Chemainus. Mr. Geo. A. Allen is in charge of the Crofton branch. Still farther up, on the left, is the general store opened by Mr. J. Broadwell of Salt Spring Island.

THE NEW TOWN OF CROFTON, V.I.—THE FIRST BUILDINGS ON MAIN STREET.

On the right hand looking up beyond the Hotel Osborne, fine roomy stores are in course of erection by Messrs. Moore & Whittington, of Victoria. These are absent from the photo though a good deal of the lumber for their erection was on the ground when the picture was taken. Beyond again, still on the right, is the townsite estate office, where Captain McIntosh presides over the destinies of the new town, and no more elegant or glowing description of Crofton's bright prospects can be had than from the large-limbed and equally large-hearted captain's lips.

Up the hill again beyond King street, is Mr. A. B. Whittingham's private boarding house where Mrs. Whittingham presides with kindliness and charm, and assures boarders of a really good meal and hearty home comforts. During the course of the week Mrs. Whittingham expects a lady resident to assist her.

Beyond again is Mr. Lindsay's barn and stables

where he puts up the several fine teams which he is working daily in spite of the bad state of the streets.

Next door is Mr. Keast's stable. This also is a new building. Here starts the Westholme stage, which Mr. H. Keast of Duncan's and Mt. Sicker fame is running daily to meet every E. & N. railway train. Mr. Malcolm Elliot, who all last summer gained good opinions and popularity when driving Keast's Mt. Sicker stage, is in charge of the new line, and his passengers always have a cheery drive with him in spite of a jolt or two over the less even portions of the road. Mr. M. Elliot is brother to the Mr. Elliot of Westholme, who went through the South African campaign with Strathcona's Horse.

Further up the hill again, near the corner where stately York avenue crosses and terminates this equally fine thoroughfare, is the store opened by Messrs. Dyke & Kirkwood, who claim to be the pioneer merchants of Crofton, and who display a large stock of general goods and are agents for the local and Seattle newspapers. In addition they are receiving and distributing the mails pending the establishment of the post office, which will probably be located on their premises. In their store is already located the Crofton end of the new long distance telephone, which Mr. W. Johnson, late of the northern telegraph party, is speedily connecting with Westholme and thereby also Nanaimo and Victoria. Mr. Kirkwood was for some years with Messrs. Erskine & Wall, of Government street, Victoria, and Mr. Dyke was until lately in the employ of His Honour the Lieut.-Governor.

In the far distance, situated close to the main trunk road, and just on the edge of the bush, may be seen the old house occupied by the survey party who have for many weeks been mapping out the townsite lots under the direction of Capt. Livingston Thompson, the well-known and genial P.L.S., assisted by Mr. W. G. Pinder and a crew till lately composed amongst others of Messrs. Sly, Binns, Henry, A. Vernon and Harvey.

Other houses that have been built since our illustration was made are a block of two residences situated on Edmund street, close to the survey party's house, built for Mrs. Greaves of Westholme, and another residence built by Mr. W. C. Dunn of the suburbs. This latter is situated on King street. Both are believed to be for rent.

Joan avenue promises to be the business centre of the growing city. It is a noble street, 100 feet wide. It has been graded, and was once gravelled, but the prevailing mud was voracious and the gravel went out of sight like McGinty long ago A portion of the road has now been corduroyed, and is thus passable. Bad as the mud is, however, it dries up and hardens quickly when given a chance, and as soon as the rains stop this fine thoroughfare can soon be put in good condition.

We hope to publish other photos. of Crofton taken as progress is made in the town, and our present illustration will be interesting as a comparison with later views of the developing city.

MINING NEWS.

THE YREKA COPPER COMPANY.

MESSRS. CLARKE & LEA, of this company, visited their properties on Mt. Richards on Monday. Work is proceeding satisfactorily with a steam drill and hoist, and they are making about two feet a day. The shaft is now down 50 feet or more, and the management expect to reach the 100-foot level by the 10th of next month. They wili then start in to crosscut. They are working down at present between two large ore bodies.

MINING AT QUATSINO SOUND.

The Yreka Copper Company have bonded or staked out some 40 claims at Mt. Comstock, on the west side of the southeast arm of Quatsino Sound, both copper and gold propositions. The enterprising individuals concerned in this company have secured an enormous deposit of copper-gold ore. This is so favourably situated that it can be simply quarried out of the hillside. The bulk of it is low grade, but a large quantity of valuable high-grade ore accompanies it, and the prospect is very promising. The company expect to make a first shipment of some 200 tons or more to the Tacoma smelter at the end of May. Their complaint is that the Crofton smelter will not be ready soon enough for them. They are meanwhile sending up men to work on a road and wharf so as to provide shipping facilities on a large scale. Next month they propose to construct an ærial tramway from the mines to salt water. Mr. Clarke considers that they have enough ore in sight to keep a 100-ton smelter ten years. The face they are working on is one hundred feet wide. It is a second edition of the Boundary creek country says Mr. Clarke, but here the ore will average a higher value.

No doubt there will be a good deal of further prospecting in the locality this spring. The Queen City at present carries passengers up the sound to the mines, and there is a trail through from them to the East Coast at Hardy bay. The government have been petitioned to build a road across here, and have already done some work in the way of bridging, etc. The trail from Quatsino to Port Rupert is half hidden in dense sallal bush, and so windiug and intricate is the route that one creek alone is crossed no fewer than fourteen times.

Mr. H. O. Bergh, who with Messrs. Clarke, Givin & Lea, is interested in these properties, has been staying at Duncans. He is postmaster at Quatsino sound.

Mr. Givin has gone up the West Coast again to report on other properties for the Yreka company.

WINTER HARBOUR.

Mr. S. Price, of Winter Harbour, on Quatsino sound, has been prospecting for coal. That part of the country was considered by the late eminent geologist, Dr. Dawson, as favourable to contain an important coal belt, and Mr. Price claims that he has found indications of a large seam at the proper depth. Mr. Price, however, has been travelling farther afield, and report says that he is getting up a party to continue his late gold explorations in Siberia.

COMING AGRICULTURAL ADDRESSES.

The deputy minister of agriculture has made arrangements with the Hon. C. L. Smith to resumes his lectures on farming at the various Farmers' Institutes throughout the country in the spring. D. C. Anderson, Esq., of the department of agriculture, at Ottawa, is to speak at a series of lectures now being arranged, the island districts to be taken first, and addresses delivered at Metchosin, Cowichan, Nanaimo, Alberni, and other points. At these meetings Mr. Smith will also continue his happy and amusing talks with his many farmer friends.

His conclusions, drawn from his last tour, are that Vancouver Island can never grow beef in competition with Manitoba farming, and he thinks that farmers here should get better breeds of cosws anc go in for dairying thoroughly. With the Cowichan creamery as a nucleus of effort in this direction, the Cowichan district should not be left behind in this industry.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Two very interesting and useful pamphlets have recently issued from the Provincial department of agriculture.

A thirty-page descriptive handbook entitled "British Columbia and its Agricultural Capabilities," consists of a brief, lucidly-written, review of agricultural operations in the Province with detailed references to the various products, and well-reasoned conclusions deduced therefrom as to the suitability of the country for agriculture. This is followed by a series of articles descriptive of British Columbia, its scenic and climatic characteristics, and especially its agricultural and home life. The pamphlet is illustrated throughout with beautifully executed and admirably selected photographs. The illustrations, at once artistic, accurate and instructive, deserve a speclal word of praise, and the pamphlet issued for circulation from the agent-general's office in London, will be an invaluable handbook not only to intending settlers, but also to tourists and students.

"Bulletin No. 10," also issued by the Agricultural Department, is devoted to agricultural shows, and as Mr. J. R. Anderson, deputy minister of agriculture, writes: "To bring to the notice of the farmers of British Columbia the desirability of pursuing more advanced methods in the management of the annual fairs, held under the auspices of the various agricultural associations, with a view, if possible, of obtaining their consent to an arrangement of dates, so that the shows will follow consecutively, thus affording the judges an opportunity to act at all or most of the fairs."

Mr. Anderson alludes to the value of having expert judges at these shows, and to the difficulty of securing them. He draws attention to the fact that the Dominion Department of Agriculture have now offered to supply competent judges in some cases at a minimum cost on certain conditions, and urges the acceptance of these conditions which are simply that the shows shall be held in such a manner that one or two sets of judges will be able to cover the whole Province, and since the Dominion authorities cannot undertake to deal with every individual society, all arrangements must be made through and by the Provincial Department of Agriculture. Mr. Anderson rightly considers these conditions very reasonable, and referring to the already great pressure of work in his departmen, appeals that the arrangements he suggests "be considered dispassionately, in a disinterested spirit, and bearing in mind the good of all, to sink any local differences, so that the generous offers of assistance made by the Dominion agricultural authorities can be made available."

The deputy minister of agriculture further suggests the elimination of outside "attractions" such as games, etc., from fairs, and quotes cases and authorities showing that so called "wide open" fairs are less valuable, both financially and educationally, than the purely legitimate ones.

"Bulletin No. 10," contains numerous opinions from many publications and individuals in Canada, New South Wales and the State of Washington, bearing out the deputy minister's views and suggestions. It is both interesting and instructive, and should be read by every up-to-date farmer.

We understand that the Post Office Inspector at Victoria has offered to make up a Crofton mail bag for the time being, pending the official establishment of post office arrangements by the Dominion government.

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THE CROFTON GAZETTE
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THE CROFTON PUBLISHING CO.

MANAGER, - - - - - - - - - H. MORTIMER LAMB
EDITOR, - - - - - - - - - - HENRY H. NEWILL

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All communications for the present to P. O. Box 645, Victoria, P. O. Duncans and Crofton.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1902.

IT is with much satisfaction that we learn that fresh arrangements are in progress for the immediate completion of the work of construction on the Crofton wharf. Bad as the weather conditions have been during the past month or two, they have not been a worse hindrance to the development of the town than the absence of proper wharfage facilities. The important work of unloading and disembarking lumber and other materials of the first necessity for the building up of the town has been dependent upon the facilities afforded by a single scow moored at the end of the little jetty beneath Mr. Ward's house. The "Mystery" and other steamers travelling on this route have been unable to come alongside except at high water, and heavy freight has at times been refused as it could not be unloaded under the circumstances. Just the other day too the scow sprang a leak and filled with water and had to be beached to be pumped out and repaired. An exceptionally heavy south-easter was answerable for this catastrophe, but that fact hardly excused the accident in the eyes of consignees whose freight was damaged on this and other occasions. That this state of affairs should exist after all these weeks since the original contract was let is entirely due to the failure of the contractor to carry out the work entrusted to him. The piles were delivered a month ago.

The Smelter Company are now daily expecting large consignments of heavy machinery, and Messrs. Sherbourne & Smith, the building contractors, have yet to get their materials on the ground, and every other contractor and storekeeper in Crofton is anxiously awaiting the erection of the new wharf. Operations have even been postponed pending its erection. We congratulate the estate accordingly on taking the matter into their own hands without any further delay. We understand that it is the intention to advance this necessary work to the utmost, and to commence construction at once.

It is wonderful to consider how much progress has been made practically without a wharf at all. The rapid completion of the work will in itself be a very important further stride in the town's progress.

It is cheering to hear that the North Cowichan Municipality are taking steps to improve the trunk road running from Maple Bay through Crofton townsite towards Westholme and Chemainus. In places this road has latterly been simply a ditch filled with mud. The municipality propose to brush portions of it and otherwise repair them, and in the worst places to cut new lines of roadway. This is most encouraging news.

The Alderlea Fire Company, as reported in our columns, held a very successful meeting last week. As may be seen the members got well down to business, and discussed the situation from a thoroughly practical point of view which will no doubt be appreciated by those who are interested in the fire protection of Duncans.

The appointments made by the municipality of Messrs. Whittingham, Pearce and Conlin to be fire wardens of Crofton, and Mr. Lindsay to be sanitary inspector will be heartily approved by the public and we congratulate not only the gentlemen themselves, but on the other hand, the town of Crofton on having secured the services of such capable and energetic officials.

At a large public meeting held last week Ladysmith formed a Board of Trade. Mr. H. P. Marshall was elected first president; Mr. J. W. Coburn, vice-president; Mr. James Freel, secretary; Mr. A. S. Christie, treasurer, and Messrs. Wm. Beveridge, Walter Jones, T. L. Grahame, Andrew Davidson, I. Gould and John Bickle were elected on the executive. We hope Crofton will be in a position to follow so excellent an example at no distant date.

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Trains will run between Victoria and Sidney as follows:

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Leave Victoria at	7.45 a. m.	4.00 p. m.
" Sidney at	9.00 "	5.45 "

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Leave Victoria at	7.45 a. m.	2.00 p. m.
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THE ALDERLEA FIRE COMPANY.

A meeting of the Alderlea Fire Company was held at the Tzouhalem hotel, Duncans, on Thursday evening, 13th inst.

There were present Mr. A. Peterson, chief; Mr. C. Grassie, secretary; and Messrs. H. Keast, F. Price, S. Robinson, Jerome and W. Evans.

The meeting having been opened by Mr. Peterson, the secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, at which the following officers were elected:

Mr. A. Peterson .....Chief.
Mr. A. H. Lomas .. ..Asst. Chief.
Mr. Chas. Grassie.....Sec.-Treas.
Mr. H. Keast .....Foreman.

A letter was read from the Hon. James Dunsmuir, in which the hon. gentleman stated that he would be glad to contribute towards the purchase of a fire engine as soon as the matter was put on a practical basis.

A letter was also read from Mr. Deasy, of Messrs. Royds & Deasy, calling attention to the fact that the government had given $500.00 towards a fire engine for Atlin, and might perhaps make some appropriation for this equally worthy and pressing scheme. The writer recommended a hand fire engine and hose as meeting the needs of the case.

Mr. F. Price entirely agreed with this view. A chemical engine he thought would be too costly. A hand engine with lots of water would be equally effective. He suggested the construction of several cisterns in various parts of the town, these to be supplied by the running water from the hill which could be conducted into them through half-inch pipes.

Mr. Peterson agreed, and suggested that an appropriation should be asked for from the government for this purpose.

Mr. F. Price thereupon moved and Mr. Keast seconded a motion that the secretary be instructed to write Chas. Dickie, Esq., M.P.P., asking him to use his influence to secure such an appropriation.

The secretary was also instructed to write to Messrs. Royds & Deasy to obtain from them the best terms on which they would be willing to supply a suitable hand engine and hose.

Mr. Peterson drew attention to the fact that the dry weather would soon be setting in, and recommended immediate action. Other members concurred and it was generally acknowledged that under present conditions if oncc a fire should get a hold, the chances of saving any part of the town would be small. Mr. F. Price felt sure that if the Fire Co. put a definite fire protection scheme before the public it might rely on ample financial support. After some further discussion of details participated in by Mr. S. Robinson, amongst others, a motion was made by Mr. H. Keast, seconded by Mr. W. Evans, that the chief appoint a committee to go thoroughly iuto the matter of the installation of a system of tanks in the town, and report as to the cost of construction of four such tanks with piping, etc., the localities in which they should be placed, and if necessary to call for tenders. This motion was carried enthusiastically and Messrs. H. Keast, F. Price and S. Robinson were named on the committee.

On the motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. F. Price, it was further resolved that Messrs. A. Peterson, F. Price and H. Keast should be appointed a deputation to wait upon the municipal council at its next session with a petition for aid.

The accounts were then brought forward and passed, and the meeting terminated, having decided to come together again two weeks hence to receive the report of the special committee on the water tank scheme.

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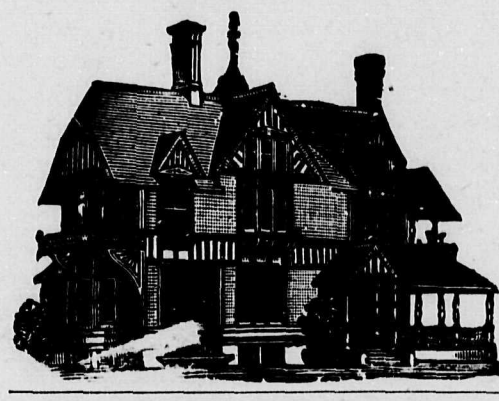

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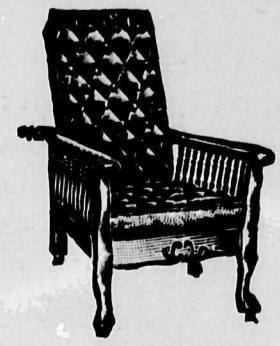

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Duncans and Cowichan Local News.

THE NORTH COWICHAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

AT the session of the North Cowichan Municipal Council on the 12th inst., there were present the Reeve, J. N. Evans, Esq., in the chair, Messrs. A. Blyth, J.P. and W. H. Elkington, J.P., Councillors C. Dobson, A. Herd, H. Bousall and Mr. J. Norcross, clerk and collector.

The Licensing Court opened the proceedings. The first applicants were the new hotel proprietors at Crofton. Of these, Mr. M. J. Conlin was granted a license for the "Hotel Crofton," and Mr. J. T. Pearce a license for the "Hotel Osborne." Mr. T. Pitt, late of the Alderlea hotel, Duncans, was granted a transfer from himself to Mr. J. A. Rogers, the new proprietor. The action of the Reeve in granting a license to temporary quarters for Mr. Fred Nelson during the erection of the new Quamichan hotel was endorsed.

The Council then formed on municipal affairs. A resolution passed at a public meeting held at Crofton was considered, and in accordance therewith Mr. Lindsay was appointed sanitary inspector, and Messrs. Whittingham, Conlin and Pearce were accredited fire wardens for Crofton townsite.

The Council received a deputation asking for an extensisn of Wicks road to property recently bought by Mr. H. de M. Mellin. Mr. J. Maitland-Dougall wished the Council to reconsider their decision regarding the road to open up the lots on the Watson estate. Mr. E. J. Palmer asked for a new footpath to the Chemainus wharf, offering to supply the lumber. The finance committee performed its appointed duties, and the revision of the old assessment roll of the municipality was then proceeded with and completed. The new assessment of Crofton was settled, and the Council then adjourned until Saturday, April 15th, when the revision court will be held.

MT. SICKER RAILWAY EXTENSION.

The trestle and bridge at Mt. Sicker siding are being rapidly pushed to completion now that permission for the crossing of the E. & N. railway has been granted by the Dominion government, at Ottawa. The lumber will be supplied from Mr. F. Lloyd's mills at Westholme. Some three miles of rails are now lying at Ladysmith, and the balance necessary to complete the laying of this line will be on the ground in less than two weeks. A new locomotive now standing in Vancouver will shortly be shipped across and delivered at Mt. Sicker siding, to be used for hauling ore from that point to the smelter at Crofton.

TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The telephone at Crofton in connection with the long distance system will be completed in a few days. This will be of great benefit to the townsite, and to Victoria merchants who will be able to fill orders without personally visiting the town. An electric light plant will be installed very shortly by an enterprising company who deserve great credit for their pluck and faith in the coming city. All the buildings under construction are being wired.

THE LENORA - MT. SICKER CO.

Development work still continues steadily at the Lenora mine so as to block out plenty of ore to allow for increase of shipments from time to time. The company will ship about 200 tons a day from the mine to the smelter, and delivery of this will commence early in April. It will take some months at this rate to deliver the 40,000 tons now lying on the dumps at the mine.

THE SMELTER.

Mr. Joseph Bye, superintending the construction of the Smelter, went down to Victoria on Monday to arrange with the Transfer Company, who hold the excavation contract, to push on the work, and put more teams and scrapers on to it. This contracting party is getting on fairly well in spite of the exceptioanlly unfavourable weather, but the Smelter syndicate are anxious to get to business quickly.

Messrs Sherbourne and Smith, the building contractors for the Smelter works, have two scows of lumber in the bay, and a small engine, and they will commence building operations this week. They are placing several sub-contracts.

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VICTORIA——— AND ———VANCOUVER.

CROFTON UP TO DATE.

Capt. McIntosh has been down at Victoria on business.

Mr. C. S. and G. Master have been paying a visit to Victoria.

Mr. Bellinger was lately over at Duncans for a few days' fishing.

Dr. Foot has bought some lots in Crofton and is preparing to build.

Mrs. Greaves' and Mr. C. W. Dunn's houses are nearly completed.

Mr. James S. Harvey and Capt. Mackenzie visited Crofton on Sunday last.

Mr. Fred. Young, engineer to the smelter company, has been away at Seattle for a few days.

Mr. M. J. Conlin also received a license for the Hotel Crofton at the council meeting held next day.

Mr. A. Howe was in Crofton last week. Mr. S. A. Allen is running his butcher's store for him.

Five extra teams passed through Duncans on Tuesday for the Victoria Transfer Co. at Crofton.

The five stores being erected by Messrs. Moore & Whittington, on Joan avenue, will be open for rent in a few weeks.

Messrs. Breen & Bellinger, principals of the smelter syndicate, have been staying down at Crofton, busily engaged at the smelter offices.

Mr. Joseph Bye, superintendent of the smelter construction returned last week from a visit paid across the Sound. He went down to Victoria on Monday to hurry up the excavating contractors.

Crofton was en fete on Tuesday last week, when the members of the licensing and assessment boards paid their official visit of inspection. Mr. J. T. Pearce, since licensed, of the Hotel Osborne, provided luncheon.

Both the hotels will be opened in about a week, and both promise to be very comfortable in all their appointments. Excellent meals can be obtained at either of these houses or at Mr. Whittingham's establishment.

Mr. Malcolm Elliott, who is driving Keast's Crofton and Westholme stage, was at Duncans on Monday to change one of the horses in his team. The bad roads caused the animal's lameness.

Considerable additions and repairs are in course of completion on Mr. A. Ward's house and grounds on the foreshore. Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Fotheringham and family will shortly take up their residence here.

Mr. W. Johnson has lately been busily engaged fixing up the new telephone line to connect with the Victoria and Nanaimo service. The Crofton end is located at Messrs. Dyke & Kirkwood's.

We regret to hear that Mr. Love, who held a contract for grading streets, has had a nasty axe accident, and was obliged to go to Nanaimo hospital last week. We hope, however, to see him back amongst us shortly.

A LUMBER YARD FOR CROFTON.

Mr. Frank Lloyd, the well-known saw-mill proprietor of Westholme, contemplates putting in a lumber yard at Crofton as soon as the Mt. Sicker railway extension is completed. This railway extension will be through within thirty days.

The contract for the construction of the Crofton wharf has been let to Mr. Sherbourne, who went to Chemainus on Wednesday in order to secure a pile-driver.

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