The Crofton Gazette

DEVOTED TO

The Mining and Agricultural Interests of Vancouver Island, Texada Island, and Coast Mainland Districts.

VOL. 1. CROFTON, B. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1902. NO. 2

THE COWICHAN DISTRICT.

COMPRISING the valleys of the Koksilah, the Chemainus and the Cowichan rivers, this extensive section of Vancouver Island includes not only an immense mining field, at present scarcely scratched, but also one of the largest and most valuable agricultural areas in the province. The Cowichan valley extends westward across the island to the West Coast ranges. Within it lies one of the most beautiful lakes in a peculiarly picturesque and diversified country. Cowichan lake, 20 miles in extent, is the largest on the island. Upon its shores stand promising agricultural areas, and valuable mineral discoveries are daily being made in its surrounding mountains. Fish abound in its waters, and game of all kinds inhabit its forests, which contain enormous acreages of the most valuable timber. The Cowichan Lumber Co. here own extensive timber limits and employ a large number of men, sending down the river several million feet of logs annually.

Several mining companies have already started operations near the head of the lake and prospectors are flocking into the country. Mining activity generally makes a bigger noise in the world than the quieter agricultural pursuits, but these also in their way are no whit behind in the general development.

What has been said of the Cowichan valley is equally applicable to the Koksilah and Chemainus valleys. Their characteristics are much the same, and these are the main features of the whole Cowichan district. It is not more particularly a mining district, nor an agricultural, nor a lumbering, nor a sporting one, but it is all these combined. Above all there is a charm in its unconventional open air life which is very dear to its old residents. British Columbia has been called the most English province in Canada, and Victoria the most English town on the American continent. Duncans and its neighbourhood in particular and the whole Cowichan district are yet more English still. Here are reproduced all the best and most home-like features of English country life.

The Cowichan district was first settled by farmers, then the loggers came in, and finally the discovery of rich mines on Mt. Sicker opened hitherto undreamt-of possibilities of wealth and industry. These, notwithstanding the enormous mining developments on Mt. Sicker, remain as yet scarcely handled. When Mr. Croft, by his enterprise and enthusiasm, had shown what riches the country contained in the Lenora mine, other energetic men soon came into the country. The Tyee Company commenced work and soon showed that they had a property scarcely less rich than the Lenora. At the heels of these two mines, prospectors followed in quick succession, and now much of the country around Mt. Sicker has been staked out, and in some cases a good deal of development work has been done. To the owners of these unworked claims the smelter to be erected at Crofton will come as a gigantic boon. Hitherto the cost of shipping ore to mainland smelters has been the cause of many promising properties being left idle. Some of these are now commencing operations with the view of shipping to the Crofton smelter.

But Mt. Sicker, with all its mineral wealth, is after all only a small section of the mineral area of the Cowichan district. Some people have had the hardihood to say that the Crofton smelter, not to mention the proposed smelting works at Ladysmith, will be more than the mines can support. They little comprehend the mining prospects of the Cowichan district. These, indeed, are encouraging enough to hope that even double the proposed number of smelters may yet—within very few years,—be kept busy. The mineral riches of the country behind Crofton is itself a guarantee of the permanency of the young smelter city. And on the other hand, Crofton with its large up-to-date smelter, situated in the very heart of the mining districts, will be a stimulus and a practical encouragement to ever-increasing mining development. This has been the long-felt want of the country. The mineral is in the hills, the labour is at hand, and capital has only been withheld because the opportunity for profitable work and investment has hitherto been wanting.

How bright the future is for the Cowichan district it is difficult to realize. With its mining resources, its boundless timber limits, its exceptional agricultural advantages, and its intense charm for home life, it cannot be long before it is supporting a population ten, nay a hundred times bigger than that of to-day.

Wherever mines are found and worked, or logging camps are established, there immediately opens out a market for agricultural produce. The farmers of the Cowichan district can have and will have their market at their elbow so to speak.

Agriculture in this district is as well carried on as anywhere else in the province. Farming is done on the so called intensive system. Dairying, fruit growing, and the care of sheep and cattle, pigs and poultry is the practice usually adopted, as best paying. The Cowichan creamery situated at Duncans and operating practically throughout the Cowichan district is an instance of what can be done industrially. Last year this company produced no less than 80,356 lbs. of butter, for which it received $22,375.96, and this year too was but the sixth of its existence.

There are surely other similar industries that might be started with every prospect of success. There is for instance, a fruit and vegetable cannery business. The Cowichan agricultural district is not going to remain within its present limits. The land is there, the inducements to settlers are there, the inducements to miners are there, the means of agriculture and mineral produce are abundantly present, and new markets are near by at hand. To crown all the Crofton smelter which is being established must inevitably become an influence toward consolidation of all these interests. Cowichan district with its combined home charms and business opportunities has as bright a future before it as any other district in this province.

MINING NEWS.

THE TYEE CO'S SMELTER.

MR. THOMAS KIDDIE, of the Van Anda smelter has arrived at Ladysmith on business connected with the smelter which the Tyee Copper Co. have decided to erect at that port. The design and construction of this work has been entrusted wholly to Mr. Kiddie, and in his capable hands has been placed the entire management of the works when completed. These smelter works will include modern improvements, and the Tyee Copper Co. will not only smelt their own ores, but are already advertising to purchase ores as from the 1st August next. The company announce that they will be able to start shipping ore to the coast by the 1st June. The ore will be conveyed from the mine to Somenos (some 3 or 4 miles) by a double-rope system ærial tramway. The ore bunkers at the end of this line will be connected with the E. & N. railway, upon whose cars the ores will thence be transported to the smelter at Ladysmith.

The latest news from the mine is very encouraging. There are now lying on the dump about 5,000 tons of ore ready for shipment, and it is estimated that some 100,000 tons of ore, giving an average assay of $18 per ton, are already blocked out from the 200-foot level upward,

CHEMAINUS RIVER PROPERTIES.

Messrs. Rheinhart & Co. have bonded three properties at the head of the Chemainus river. These are the Thistle, Richard N. and Three Friends. The formation here is in the schist similar to that of Mt. Sicker, and on the properties there is quite a large outcropping of copper ore bearing a distinct resemblance to that of the Lenora and Tyee. These claims are situated on Mount Horum, and the camp has been named Jasper Camp, on account of the striking jasper character of the quartz at the surface. Messrs. Rhinehart & Co. have driven a tunnel 270 feet and tapped a ledge at a depth of 150 ft. They are preparing to drive another tunnel for some 600 feet to strike the lode 300 feet farther down. Results so far have been eminently satisfactory, assays running to $23. Messrs. Rheinhart & Co. hope to greatly extend their work this summer, but at present their efforts are handicapped by the absence of transportation facilities. The existing trail is as bad as it can be, and if these mines turn out as they are promising, a good road will be an absolute necessity.

A Tacoma syndicate, the International Mining Co., are also working some properties on the Chemainus river. They are drifting at the 300-foot level, and hope to strike the ore body in 150 feet. Transport difficulties here also are a great hindrance to progress. The company have to pack in supplies from Cowichan lake to the mine over a twelve-mile trail which they have made.

COWICHAN LAKE DISTRICT.

From prospects that have already been made round and about Cowichan lake, this district promises to assume considerable importance in the mining world. The Duncan Mining and Development Co., Ltd., have accomplished a good deal of work on their properties which lie at an elevation of 2,000 feet above sea level. In all some 250 feet of exploratory tunnelling has been driven, and the ledge has been cut in two or three places. The company announce that the assays of some 200 tons of ore on their dump have given an average of $2 to $5 in gold, 68 per cent. lead, 10 to 15 ozs. in silver, and up to 5 per cent. copper. They expect to be ready to ship within the next few months.

A great many claims have been staked in this district and a property at the head of the lake is already being developed with very satisfactory results. There can be no doubt that numbers of prospectors will find their way here in the spring. There is a wide field for them.

THE YREKA COPPER CO.

Mining on Mount Richards is assuming considerable proportions. The Yreka, Oro Fino and Klamath claims are being operated by the above company. The management have constructed a waggon road connecting their mines with Osborne Bay and Maple Bay. They have a large quantity of lumber already on the ground for building extension. Mining work has been commenced with the sinking of a shaft on the outcrop of the Yreka. This is now down 50 feet, and some excellent looking rock has been produced from it. Work is progressing in two shifts, and a steam drill is in operation.

LENORA MT SICKER NOTES.

Development work is proceeding steadily at the No. 3 level with most satisfactory results. The ore body continues solidly and maintains its values. The shipping of the huge mass of ore on the dump to the Crofton smelter will probably be commenced sooner than was expected. The railway will be ready for the transportation of ore probably before the end of the month, and this mine will then once more be the busy scene it was a few months ago.

THE MT. SICKER RAILWAY EXTENSION.

The Lenora Mt. Sicker company have given out a contract for 2,000 five and six-inch ties to be ready for the immediate construction of their railway extension from Mt. Sicker siding to Crofton. The laying of the rails has already been begun, and trains will be running into Crofton probably before the end of the month.

Agricultural Meetings.

THE DAIRYMEN'S AND LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING.

This meeting was held at Victoria in the offices of the department of agriculture during last week. Major Mutter was in the chair, supported by the secretary of the association, Mr. G. H. Hadwen. Amongst others present were Mr. Jaynes, of Duncans, and Mr. Corfield, of Cowichan. Statements of finances were submitted to the meeting, as also returns of stock imported and sold by the association. The pure bred sales amounted to: cattle, 115; sheep, 98; pigs, 74; poultry, 180; and the local stock sold in addition: cattle, 16; sheep, 9; pigs, 2; poultry, 25. The total value of stock imported including freight amounted to $46,137.30, and the value of local stock sold was $742. Sir Henri Joly addressed the meeting showing that the farming industry was particularly deserving of every assistance on the part of the government of the province.

Mr. Hadwen then read his report. This referred to the important work of the association in introducing good stock into the country, and suggested horse breeding and the raising of swine and poultry as objects

worthy of more encouragement amongst farmers. Mr. Hadwen then mentioned his visit to Ontario and spoke of the intense interest which he found manifested there in tne proceedings and work of the association. He urged that a meeting should be held next May, or thereabouts, when Messrs. Hodson and Peterson, and other capable speakers on agriculture would be coming west, and suggested that specimens of cattle, sheep and swine, should be provided to be lectured upon both alive and dead. In conclusion Mr. Hadwen said that the past year generally had been a prosperous one with feed plentiful and prices good, but the increase of agricultural imports showed that we had not yet begun to supply our needs.

Interesting discussions were held during the meeting. The Hon. C. L. Smith declared that the finest cow he had seen during the past four months was the property of Mr. J. H. Smart, of Metchosin. The hon. gentleman further delivered an instructive address on the mutual benefit to one another of the railroad and the farmer.

THE FARMER'S MEETING.

THE Central Farmer's Institute concluded a three days' session on Thursday last, the 27th inst., Major Mutter presiding. The meeting was held in the office of the department of agriculture, Victoria. Many visitors were present throughout the proceedings. The elected officers of this institute are Major Mutter, chairman; Mr. J. T. Collins, secretary, and Mr. J. R. Anderson, superintendent. An advisory board was balloted for, the six members chosen being Messrs. Mutter and Miller for Vancouver Island, Messrs. Metcalf and Ladner for the Lower Mainland, and Messrs. Raymur and Hurd for the Upper Country.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, in his opening address, referred very favourably to the action of Cowichan in publishing very attractive pamphlets, setting forth its many advantages to the settler.

A large number of questions of general and technical interest to farmers were discussed, and a report received from the committee of transportation, whose labours had not been very successful, although they had obtained slight concessions on freight rates in some few cases. In discussing the alarming spread of thistles and weeds, a resolution was passed calling upon the government to make it compulsory for pathmasters or other municipal officers to enforce the provisions of the Noxious Weeds and Thistle Acts under pain of fine. Another resolution that was passed urged upon the government the necessity of inspection of all carcases in slaughter houses and the certifying to their fitness for food by duly appointed officers of the crown. Other matters under discussion were agricultural education, contagious diseases, storage of water, fencing railway lines, provision of stumping powder, clearing water courses, lime for farmers, the trespass and game acts, Fall shows, etc., etc.

The Hon. C. L. Smith of Minnesota delivered a very interesting address on dairying and referred to Institute work. Institute work, he said, had for its purpose the calling to farmers' attention of knowledge that would be of benefit to them in their work. There were many improvements in methods of conducting Institutes. He believed the right system was in vogue in this province. Referring to the value of reading and knowledge, he had found that the farmer with knowledge was more successful than the one who applied no knowledge. It was not a question of luck. The varying success was due to the various methods. It took something besides hard work to get success out of farming. It took the sensible application of knowledge. The whole success of Institute work lay in learning from one another. Institutes should be the means of educating farmers to diversified and intelligent farming. He urged the farmers to look after little things. The farmers who went bankrupt were horseback farmers who couldn't get down to set a hen.

A BOARD OF TRADE FOR LADYSMITH.

The *Leader* has been making strong appeals to the merchants and citizens of Ladysmith to organize a Ladysmith Board of Trade. A meeting for the purpose was announced for Wednesday, the 5th inst. This is a move with which all who wish the country well must sympathize.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1902.

OUR RECEPTION.

WE wish in a few words to express our appreciation of the kind reception we have had from our older contemporaries. The Victoria *Times* and *Colonist*, the Vancouver *News-Advertiser*, *Ledger* and *World*, the *Free Press* and *Herald* of Nanaimo, *The B.C. Mining Exchange* and the *B.C. Trade Budget*, all have kind words for us. And especially do we appreciate the compliments of our immediate neighbour, the Ladysmith *Leader* and of the very enterprising Vancouver *Province*. The last named has devoted a leading article to our modest debut in the journalistic world. The *Province* "trusts that the expectations of the GAZETTE may be realized to the fullest degree, that Crofton may in the near future number its residents by thousands, that every resident may be as enterprising and prosperous as the most sanguine settler could hope, and that the paper which has just made its debut, and which is devoted to the mining and agricultural interests of Vancouver Island, Texada Island and the coast mainland districts may have a career far exceeding its present expectations."

So may it be!

The first necessity of a new town is to grow, the next is to manage to get talked about. The growth of Crofton is a self evident fact. Each week, each day indeed sees a change in the landscape. Stumps, charred logs and rotting heaps of vegetation are everywhere giving place to tidy clearings and well graded streets, and buildings of many descriptions are going up on every hand. This is good.

But Crofton has already attained the further step. Crofton is beginning to be talked about. This too in high places. The Vancouver Board of Trade have been discussing plans for direct transportation whereby they may secure a share in the trade of the new smelter centre, and later still the Victoria Board of Trade from their more intimate point of view have been considering how they may monopolize the opening Crofton markets. American institutions also have noticed the chances for expansion of trade afforded by our new town, and our cousins on the other side as a rule lose little time between observation and action. Seldom perhaps had a starting town such a favourable send off; rarely indeed had one such solid foundations of prosperity. Crofton is young, but she is strong. She need lean neither to the one support nor to the other. Her brightest future and prosperity lie in the inducements her smelter will offer to ore shippers along the entire coast and to her unrivalled position at the sea front of a magnificent mining and agricultural district, second to none in the whole province.

We have to congratulate the Tyee Copper Co. on having secured the services of so prominent and capable a metallurgist as Mr. Thomas Kiddie. Mr. Kiddie was formerly connected with the Gt. Orford Copper Co. and has been intimately associated with the leading metallurgists of the American continent. For the last few years he has been engaged in superintending the Van Anda mines and smelter of Texada Island.

Only some dozen or so copies of our first issue remain over. These we shall hold for subscribers who may wish to have our series complete.

THE LATE SPEAKER BOOTH.

The funeral of the late Hon. J. P. Booth took place at Salt Spring Island on Saturday last and was fittingly attended by the Premier and many members of parliament. The late speaker of the House was universally respected, as much for his honourable and just personal characteristics as for his long and faithful service to the province, which he had made his home for over forty years. A record such as his is not only a monument to the individual, but an honour to the House over which he so worthily presided.

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THE HON. C. L. SMITH ON "THE STABLING AND CARE OF COWS."

(Contributed by H. de M. Mellin, Esq., Secretary Cowichan Agricultural Society.)

Throughout the Pacific Coast there are few more telling speakers on agricultural subjects than the Hon. C. L. Smith. His home is in Minnesota, but for some time past he has lived in Oregon and Washington, studying the dairy cow and her products and successfully endeavoring to assimilate the latest farming methods of the East with the changed conditions as to climate and surroundings of our Western coast.

At a meeting of the Cowichan Farmer's Institute last week, Mr. Smith delivered one of his characteristically original addresses. The subject, "The Care and Stabling of the Dairy Cow," may not seem at first sight to lend itself to very original and at the same time convincing treatment. Herein lies the genius of a really able lecturer, to present old truths in new guises and propound new arguments and ideas as original as they are irrefutable. We have been told the exact cash value of education to the farmer, as instanced by Minnesota. Fourteen years ago the farmers in that state were on the verge of bankruptcy; wheat growing had ceased to pay, and apart from this branch they knew little or nothing of the science of farming. The average price of land stood at eleven dollars an acre. Then came the first creamery, and with it, government instrution in dairy farming. Fourteen years afterwards the state could count a thousand creameries, the price of land had risen to sixty dollars an acre, and the average butter yield per cow had gone up from eighty to two hundred and forty pounds per cow. Organised effort and education had done all this. Thanks to the good feeling throughout the entire community in this district of Cowichan, organised effort is an easy matter, when once we know for what good thing we are to organise. It is in this matter that education is to help us. That our farmers are not slow to learn, is evidenced by the fact that our creamery output has more than doubled itself in the last four years. Mr. Smith wishes us to go on increasing in the same ratio. Not altogether by enlarging the herds so much as by increasing the annual output of the individual cow. A greater care and attention to the actual comfort of the animal can do much to this end. For instance, he sets forth the apparent paradox that cows suffer more from inclement weather in mild climates than in severe ones. Cows should not be allowed to roam the pastures in our drenching winter rains. "Do not have your cows outside the barn unless you are willing to stay out with them." That sort of thing can only mean a shrinkage of milk yield, with a corresponding shrinkage in the creamery cheque at the end of the month.

There are a few other matters, too, for which some dairymen in their ignorance pay in hard cash—ill-treatment, dogs, dirt, and cold or ill-ventilated stables. On this latter subject, that of the stabling of cattle, Mr. Smith propounds ideas that are certainly new to this part of the world. He advocates nothing less than the abolition of both mangers and tie ropes. The cow is driven into a narrow stall—too narrow to turn around and so constructed that her hind feet shall stand a few inches from the gutter. A cord sixteen inches from the ground is then hooked across the end of the stall, almost touching her hind legs. Under these circumstances a cow will not back out until the cord is removed. If there is no manger the cow will be able to turn over her food at her pleasure, and will have no desire to throw out her hay and trample it under foot as so often happens. It should be mentioned that a movable rack in front exactly fits the stall to the length of its occupant. After touching on various other topics connected with the subject, such as ventilation, covered barnyards and dairy rations, Mr. Smith finally brought to a close one of the most interesting addresses ever delivered in the Agricultural hall.

Parliament met again on Monday after a week's adjournment, and proceeded to business.

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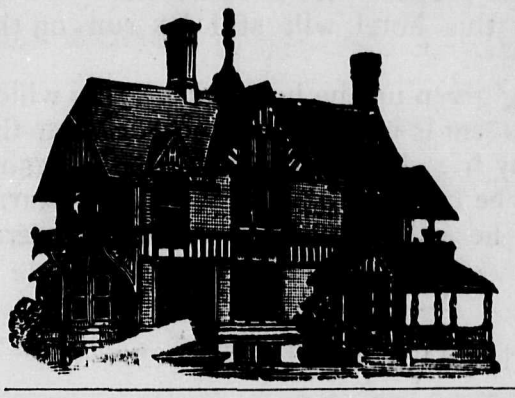

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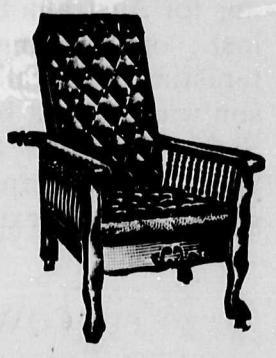

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Duncans and Cowichan Local News.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

The proprietorship of the Alderlea hotel has lately changed hands. This old established house is now under the personal management of Mr. J. A. Rogers, who has bought the property from Mr. Pitts. Under its new proprietor this hotel will still be run on the old and popular lines.

Mr. Pitts having given up the hotel business in which he won general esteem is happily not going to leave the district. His many friends will still find him at Duncan's Emporium, which he has taken over from Mr. Harry Smith, and which he will continue to run as a general store.

BUILDING ACTIVITY.

A good deal of building is going on in the district. Cartloads of lumber may be seen daily moving along the roads. The new Quamichan hotel is rapidly arising upon the ashes of the old one. Mr. Dighton of Cowichan, is erecting a new barn. Mr. G. H. Hadwen is putting up additional chicken houses on his property at Quamichan lake, and a great many other building improvements are being made in a quiet way upon the farms throughout the district, all which seem to spell prosperity.

LOCAL NOTES.

Dr. Perry of Duncans, has taken in Crofton upon his professional visitations several times of late.

Major Mutter and Messrs. G. H. Hadwen, Jaynes and Corfield were in Victoria last week attending the agricultural meetings.

Mr. H. de M. Mellin and family are moving from their place at Somenos. They have taken Mr. Lomas' ranch at Duncans.

Mr. Harry Smith has left for England to see what the old country looks like after 29 years of absence from it.

Mr. J. T. Dickson and family of Mt. Sicker are leaving for Australia by the S.S. "Miowera" on the 7th inst., and their many friends will miss them. It is interesting to recall the fact that little "Lenora" Dickson was the first baby arrival on the scene of the Mt. Sicker townsite, and that she forthwith became the youngest landowner by the gift of a "lot" from the estate in honour of the auspicious event.

"COWICHAN AS A HOME."

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture in his address to the Farmers' Institute the other day made a very gratifying allusion to the pamphlet published under the above heading by the enterprising inhabitants of this district. The pamphlet in question is a very interesting brochure dealing with "Cowichan as a Home," "Life in Cowichan," "Farming in Cowichan," "Lumbering in Cowichan," and "Cowichan as a Mining Field." Its contents are contributed to by such well known authorities as Messrs. G. H. Hadwen, Clive-Phillips Woolley, T. A. Wood and C. Livingston. It was published with the object of being widely circulated in England in order to make known the peculiar advantages of the Cowichan district, especially to the large class of retired officials and others whose tastes are for sport and a free open air existence, but who find life in the old country too expensive to permit of their indulgence. This happily thought out pamphlet, admirably illustrated, should bear good fruit. Why not follow it up by other similar publications?

CROFTON UP TO DATE.

THE wet weather has naturally interfered a good deal with the excavations for the smelter site. Work has proceeded notwithstanding and a large amount of earth has already been removed, and a big cutting made. The work will be completed by the Victoria Transfer Co. well on time, if the weather improves.

Messrs. Sherbourne & Smith have erected comfortable offices on the smelter site whence they will direct the building operations. Material is arriving on the ground, and the actual work of construction is beginning. Messrs. Breen & Bellinger have been down at Crofton during the week, busily engaged at their office.

Mr. Fred Young is paying a visit to Victoria.

Mr. Conlin has taken over Mr. Martin's boarding establishment in the barn on Ward's ranch. He is running this in conjunction with the restaurant and sleeping quarters which he has put up at the back of his new hotel. This house is now rapidly nearing completion. It is a picturesque and roomy building. The verandahs, however, have yet to be built on to it. The plastering of the interior walls is very nearly completed. On the ground floor there is to be a spacious public dining room as also a ladies' private one. These are in immediate connection with the kitchen behind. There is a commodious reading room and a bar at the back of the house, so arranged that residents in the hotel need not even know of its existence unless they wish to do so. Its verandah and front rooms embrace a fine view down the strait to the snowy mountains of Bute Inlet in the far distance. Mr. Conlin hopes to open by the 12th March.

Mr. Pearce's hotel on the other side of the street is easily the largest building in the town. On the ground floor will be several spacious public rooms, and a large number of bed-rooms above. The walls are completed and most of the partitions between the rooms put up. This house will have a wide verandah around two sides whence can be viewed the lovely scenery of the bay, and the distant peaks of the Mainland. On clear days radiant Mt. Baker can be seen through a gap in Salt Spring Island. Mr. Pearce hopes to be ready to open within the first fortnight of the month.

Mr. A. B. Whittingham's house is now completed and open for boarders. He has already got several, and his comfortable accommodation for fifteen or sixteen persons is rapidly being monopolised.

Mr. A. Howe's butchery store has been open for a week. It is almost an exact counterpart of his well-known Chemainus store.

Messrs. Dyke & Kirkwood are very busy at their new store. They may fairly claim to be the pioneer merchants of the town. They are agents for most of the local and also the Seattle newspapers. Pending the es-

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tablishment of a regular post office they are offering all possible conveniences for the distribution, etc., of letters and mails.

The five stores which Messrs. Moore & Whittington are erecting are making quite an imposing show. A large number of men are working to complete them within a few weeks. They will add yet another feature of permanence to the town.

One noteworthy feature of Crofton is that the numbers of white men to be seen about working are increasing by leaps and bounds, whilst those of Chinamen and Japs are as noticeably decreasing.

A traveller for an enterprising Victoria firm was seen the other day looking through the new buildings, and soliciting orders for window blinds. He seemed to be quite successful.

Crofton oysters are coming into demand. They are esteemed a great delicacy.

A barber is badly wanted in Crofton. Everything grows rapidly in this busy place.

THE TELEPHONE FOR CROFTON.

The work of connecting Crofton with the telephone system of the Island is well forward. Mr. W. Johnson, who was last summer engaged on the construction of the northern telegraph line, has been appointed to superintend this work, and was down at Crofton last week making a thorough inspection of the route. Work on the construction of the telephone line is now proceeding.

THE CROFTON MAILS.

A post office has not yet been officially established at Crofton, but Messrs. Dyke & Kirkwood are receiving and distributing the mails. These are sorted at Westholme and brought over to Crofton by Keast's stage. There is quite a large postal correspondence already and it is daily increasing. The want of a regular daily mail service causes considerable inconvenience to business men.

QUEEN'S MARKET

Cor. Govt. and Johnson Sts., Victoria, B. C. Tel. 32. P. O. Box 18.

LAWRENCE GOODACRE & SONS,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL BUTCHERS. Contractors by appointment to His Majesty's Royal Navy, The Dominion Government, etc. Shipping supplied at lowest rates.

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Home Comforts. Moderate Rates.

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Dealers in FRESH FISH, OYSTERS, POULTRY, GAME, FRUIT, &c., &c. Smoked Fish a specialty—our own curing.

☞Country orders or produce sent us will receive prompt attention.

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