THE LEADER WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ABOUT GRAHAM ISLAND—$2 THE YEAR

THE MASSET LEADER

News of the Queen Charlotte Islands

Send this copy to your friend. He will want to know about the resources of Graham Island

VOLUME 1, NO. 16 MASSET, B.C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1913. PRICE FIVE CENTS

Earthquake Felt In Masset

SMALL RAINFALL HERE DURING PAST YEAR

EARTH TREMBLES IN VICINITY OF MASSET BUT DOES NO DAMAGE

At 4 o'clock Tuesday morning a tremor of the earth was distinctly felt in Masset by several residents and the whole town almost was awakened at that hour. The sensation was as of a long, low swell of the sea. The shock was not strong enough to do any damage whatever.

Magistrate Harrison, T. L. Williams, James Hoare and other testify to the earthquake theory while scores of other persons admit they were suddenly awakened at four but scoff at the idea that it was a quake. Mr. Harrison in his thirty years residence on the Queen Charlotte islands has felt earth tremors several times, the last more than four years ago when the pictures on the wall swayed forward and back.

Tuesday morning's quake was accompanied by a terrific wind and an unusually loud noise as of wind whistling through trees.

ANNUAL BANQUET AT HARRISON'S

Resident of Thirty Years Host to Other Old Time Settlers.

STORIES OF OLD TIMES

Enjoyable Evening Does Not End Till Long After Midnight.

Last Friday night Magistrate and Mrs. Charles Harrison were hosts at a happy gathering of settlers of the northern end of Graham island. Their pretty home was decorated for the occasion carnations being sent from Paris for the affair which has been an annual one with the Harrisons for many years.

Impromptu singing, recitations and games passed the hours very pleasantly. Mr. Harrison told of the early settlers and their adventures when the Haidas were not a civilized race of Indians as they are today. The hosts came to Graham island more than thirty years ago, Mr. Harrison as a missionary to the Haidas. The trip from the mainland was made in an Indian war canoe across water which staunch vessels of today find hard weathering.

RESTAURANT FOR INDIAN VILLAGE

It is not so very long ago that the Haida Indians ate their food in the most primative way, and it probably seems to some of the gray-haired old natives that things are come to a nice pass when they are going to have a restaurant. This will be opened by Mark Ingram, one of the natives.

Manager Resigns.

General Manager Carter of the B. C. Fisheries at Aliford bay, has resigned and will return to the management of the Oceanic cannery on the Skeena river.

HONOR RIBBONS GIVEN INDIANS

Scholars of Indian school Prize Bits of Ribbon Given for Work.

Before the Masset Indian school closed for a two weeks' holiday Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Clayberg, the tutors, presented the children with ribbons of honor, and these the youngsters prize very highly. About sixty children are attending this school.

LANGARA ISLAND IS A FISHING PARADISE

Standing out in the Pacific ocean, within a few miles of Masset, is an island about ten miles in length and five in width, which was formerly known as North island and has been recently charted as Langara island. It is covered with a growth of spruce and other trees, with rocky shores and indented with bays.

During the fishing season which commences in April and continues until July, the Indians camped along the shores and fished during the daytime with herrings and spoons, for the largest variety of salmon in these waters. Each fisherman acts independently, rowing his boat hither and thither and trailing the line and hooks behind his row boat.

Last summer was the first time that fishing was done for commercial purposes, and the catch amounted to about twenty thousand fish each weighing from forty to ninty pounds. The price paid for the fish was three cents per pound and a number of the fisherman made from five to twenty dollars a day.

Seton Ker, the great English writer and traveller, was a visitor to Langara island during the fishing season, and he enjoyed the sport, stating that he would return with nnmber of tourists, and remain during the whole Summer.

A masquerade ball is advertised for the schoolhouse tonight and everybody is invited.

TERRIBLE STORM SWEEPS INLET

Usually Quiet Water as Rough as Open Sea.

BIG TREES THROWN ABOUT

Little Damage Except to Launches Has Been Reported.

With hurricane force from the southeast a storm Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning played havoc with everything that was loose and some things that were not. Masset inlet churned and rioted.

Every launch in the usually quiet Delkatlah bay suffered to some extent, the St. Ives being the only one that did not drag her anchor. The Birnie and Westover were thrown high up on the beach and both were badly strained by the experience.

Before the storm had spent its fury several big trees on the townsite were blown. The flagpole of the St. Ives hotel by a freak of the wind was torn off the roof and thrown into the hotel office, wrecking the door. Some of the planks on the old wharf were torn off as cleanly as though human hands had carefully taken them away.

At the Indian village little damage was done except the wrecking of Bill Harding's house.

WELL KNOWN INDIAN ENTERTAINS WHITES

Henry Edenshaw and family New Year's night entertained at dinner at their home in the Indian village. A banquet was spread in the long dining room and the rest of the evening was spent with singing and games.

Mr. Edenshaw sang several songs at the request of his guest. Organ accompaniments were played by Alfred Adams, also of the Indian village.

For the past several years Mr. Edenshaw has given a dinner in honor of his friends among the white persons of this vicinity. He and Mrs. Edenshaw and their accomplished daughter, Josephine, are charming entertainers and their annual dinners are always looked forward to with a great deal of pleasure.

Gathering at Delkatlah.

One of the first entertainments of its kind was held in Delkatlah News Year's eve when fifty-two persons gathered at the home of Mrs. Roupe and spent a most enjoyable evening. This was the first annual event of the kind that has ever taken place in Delkatlah. H. A. Lamb was awarded the chair and called on T. H. Watson for the opening address, which was highly appreciated by all present.

ANCIENT DANCE OF HAIDA INDIANS

New Year's Night at Indian Village Marked by Savage Dance.

ONLY FIVE TAKE PART

Generally Predicted This was the Last Time the Dance Will be Seen.

With a peculiarly weird harmony to the accompaniment of eccentric gesticulations, the beating of a tom-tom and rattle of wooden instruments, five of the eldest Indians in the old Masset village New year's night danced the old "devil doctor" dance, and it is predicted by the advanced natives of the village that this dance was the last gasp of old tradition among them.

While the educated Indians of the village are pleased to see the disappearance of the ancient rites, *the White persons say these ought* to be preserved and kept alive for the future. But the Indians say they are done with the past and no good to the rising generation can come of keeping the old legends alive.

The five old fellows took great delight in their performance though it required probably more physical exertion than was good for them. The dance is altogether indescribable. The onlookers who numbered practically all the Indian population as many white persons, were all very interested.

Later the old men gave presents of soda water to their especial friends among the Indians, and Magistrate Harrison, a former missionary among them, and James Martin, a well known merchant, were honored by the same gifts.

Magistrate Harrison delivered an address in the Haida language and he was applauded to the echo by the assemblage.

PLAN TO SALT SPRING SALMON

According to advices received here the Wallace Fisheries this year will not attempt to can the spring salmon. Instead, the salmon will be salted, or shipped fresh, to the eastern markets.

Another New Residence.

Thomas Weir of the Indian village is hard at work building a new residence at the east end of the reserve.

Dan Martin, Dominion constable who went to Prince Rupert where he was summoned on account of his wife's illness, has returned to his duties.

Next Monday night in the Kennedy block, Main street, Miss Nellie and Charles Ives will be hosts at a dance.

Mild Climate Shown By Annual Weather Report

While most of the northern country that is kissed by the breeze off the Japan current seems to have a great deal of rainfall, Graham island among the rest, actual rainfal figures show that there is never nearly so much rain here as in Prince Rupert or Vancouver. Year after year the amount of the rainfall is more like the fall in Victoria.

Magistrate Harrison who has kept the weather report for the last fifteen years has compiled the figures for 1912 and they show a total fall of 32.70 inches for the year. Snowfall during the year amounted to 35 inches, bringing the total precipitation up to 36.20.

The rainfall last January amounted to 4.37; Febuary, 2.89; March 0.20; April, 1.53; May, 1.83; June, 1.92; July, 0.30; August, 0.96; September, 3.91; October, 6.48; November, 4.59; December 3.72.

December just past saw the heaviest snowfall there being 15 inches. January a year ago the snowfall was 8 inches; Febuary, 11 inches, and April, 1 inch.

THINGS GROW BIG ON GRAHAM ISLAND

Visitor to Exhibition Mistakes String Beans for Cucumbers.

Graham island is inhabited by the greatest set of boosters in the country, and if the island does not go ahead it will not be for want of optimistic teachings of the settlers there. Last night in the rotunda of the Central hotel a gentleman from Skidegate was telling of the vegetables produced there. In describing the recent exhibition at Lawn Hill he said, in speaking of the string beans: "A gentleman said to me, 'What large cucumbers you grow here!' "—Prince Rupert News.

A Prince Rupert publication has an account of "the burning of the yacht Polaris." The vessel was injured in a storm on Masset inlet and will soon be repaired.

Snowball Battle In Masset Streets

On account of an unusually heavy snowfall wednesday night the whole town turned out today in a snowball battle that was a furious one while it lasted, which was as long as it took the younsters to get into it and then they drove the grown-ups indoor.

Snow, unwelcome in some places, is very welcome here and it remains on the ground for such a short time that everybody tries to make the most of it.

T. H. Watson, elder of the Seventh Day Adventists, who was ill last week, has fully recovered and paid a visit to Masset this week.

Rev. J. B. McDonald, head of the Catholics on the northern part of Graham island, is expected to return from the outside on the next steamer.

SETTLERS COMING NEXT STEAMER

Party of Five From Minnesota Have Bought Land and Will Farm.

MAYER LAKE ATTRACTION

This District Continues to Grow in Popularity all Over Continent.

When the next G.T.P. steamer Prince John arrives she will bring five Minnesotans and all their effects, according to advices A. A. McCrea has received from Winnipeg where the head office of the McCreas is located.

The newcomers will move immediately to the forty and eighty acre tracts they purchased at Mayer lake some time ago. They will be the vanguard of scores of settlers who are coming this year from the prairie provinces and the United States.

MERRY DANCING AT SCHOOLHOUSE

Monday and Tuesday evenings the Masset schoolhouse was the scene of delightful dancing parties, the first dance being given to the whole town by Mrs. James Martin. The following night Mrs. Charles Harrison was the hostess.

Sharp at midnight at Mrs. Harrison's dance, Alan Orr who was in charge of the floor, halted the gay dancers and everybody joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Sine." In this manner practically the whole town bade farewell to the old year and welcomed the new.

Mr. and Mrs. James Martin and Mr and Mrs. Charles Harrison on their respective nights were voted "jolly good fellows," with a vim attesting their popularity.

The Leader will keep you posted on the Queen Charlotte islands.

THE MASSET LEADER

A weekly newspaper published in the intertets of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Annual Subscription $2 in advance

D.R. YOUNG, Publisher.
JAMES CULLINS, Editor.

Thursday, January 2, 1913

Settlers of the Queen Charlotte islands will welcome the news that a redistribution bill will be brought before the British Columbia parliament. It is to be expected that an attempt will be made to again tack the islands onto some district or other. But this will be opposed tooth and nail, as the saying is.

This is a wonderfully resourceful country, large in area, constantly increasing in population, and one which for years has returned to the povince a revenue of approximately three quarter million dollars.

The average legislator knows little about the islands. They used to be peopled altogether by Indians and it has not been many years that one might count the white persons here on the fingers of one hand.

Even as late as five years ago there were scarcely [illegible] score white persons on the islands. There are probably two thousand now, most of whom came here within the last three years.

The soil on Graham and other islands has proven itself capable of raising almost anything. On the west are oil field; coal underlays parts of the island. Islands on the south of the group have producing mines and good-looking prospects.

Masset inlet is said to be the greatest waterway in the world, not that it is more than thirty miles in extent, but the tides, every day, furnish a natural means of transportation into the heart of the island from the north coast. The tide flows each way at the ra te of six miles an hour. There are something like twenty-five launches at work on the inlet, and many more will be brought in during 1913.

Progress is seen on every hand and industries have been started and more are in contemplation. It is truly a wonderful country with all the resources of every other distrist of the province.

It would be unfair, in the face of the surprising progress being made here, and the country so resourceful as it is, to make it a part of any other district. There is talk of again tacking it onto the Skeena district. This district is already big and unweildy and is fast growing. It can do without the Queen Charlotte island. Other talk is that the islands will be tacked onto the Atlin district, hundreds of miles away where are probably not more than a hundred voters.

The Queen Charlotte islands want to have some say in the management of their own affairs. They want their own member of the provincial parliament aud not some person who has only a political interest here.

In the death of Thomas Hodges ('Mexican Tom") Graham island loses its most picturesque and celebrated resident. As a frontiersman and trail blazer he was famous from Mexico to Alaska. Even though an old man when he came here, he buckled into the harness with the vim and determination of a young man starting out to make his first stake The name of "Mexican Tom" will long cling to the memory of the residents of this island.—Queen Charlotte News.

While it will be a much discussed question, prbabably with the majority against. Masset Indians are going to ask the franchise and white persons who witnessed the last Christmas entertainment of the natives, unanimously admit that the Haidas on the Queen Charlotte islands at least, are a whole lot further advance in civilization than many foreigners who come to British Columbia and by the more formality of swearng allegiance, are permitted all the privileges of the people of British ancestry.

It seems a pity that a better arrangement for the carrying of the mail, was not made with Grand Trunk Pacific Steamships. Here it is going on three weeks since the last mail came in. Hundreds of persons are waiting for word from the outside. It is a miserable state of affairs to say the least. If Graham island were hemmed in by mountains and glaciers, nobody would have much kick coming, but it is only an eighty miles trip by water from Prine Rupert to Masset, yet, on account of the agreement made with the G.T.P., the mail comes but once in two weeks, and now a week as been skipped and there will be none for three weeks. It amounts to an additional drawback to speedy settlement of the fairest part of British Columbia.

The entrance to Masset inlet should be resurveyed. Information with regrad to the constantly changing bottom of the inlet was transmitted to H. S. Clements, M. P., who, with his characteristic energy, immediately took the matter up with proper department. But the reply showed the usual lack of nformation of officials as to Graham island. On the outside it is thought the Queen Charlotte islands are the jumping-off place. It is difficult to make officials understand that during past three years the islands have made a remarkable stride forward and from now on the population here must be reckoned with.

That Graham island is well thought of by investors is constantly being shown. Land values are beginning to increase. Farming tractsare in demand not only on the island. but on the outside as well While it is true there are not many turnovers in Masset property, the high price at which the lots are held is admitted to be the real value when things begin to move, which undoubtedly will be in the spring. During the past two months two more towns have been surveyed and these will be soon placed on market. Sewall, the name of one, is situated advantageously with a resourceful hinterland. Graham Centre is now being surveyed and it also is backed by firstclass farming and timber land. The local sensation in a real estate way is Delkatla, a beautiful spot across Delkatlah bay from Masset. Lots there are selling daily, practically all of the investors being local persons.

LAND NOTICE

Skeena land district, district of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that Ridge Purdy of Tow Hill, Graham island, occupation rancher, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands: commencing at the NW cor. of lot 1747 Graham island; thence west 64 chains, thence south 34 chains, thence east 64 chains, thence north 34 chains, to point of commencement, containing 200 acres more or less. RIDGE PURDY

Date Sept. 5, 1912.
First publication Oct 10, 1912.

LAND ACT.

Skeena land district—District of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that John Calvert Martin of Masset, occupation agent, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands:—Commencing at a post planted at the NE cor. of lot 1607, thence 40 chains south, thence 80 chains east to shore, thence northerly and westerly along the shore to point of commencement, containing 100 acres more or less. JOHN CALVERT MARTIN.

Date Sept. 4, 1912.
First publicatiou Oct. 3, 1912.

LAND ACT

Skeena land district — District of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that Margaret Hogan of Masset, occupation married woman, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands:—commencing at a post planted at the SW cor. of lot 1563 thence 40 chains north thence 40 chains west to shore, thence southerly and easterly along the shore to point of commencement, containing 60 acres more or less. MARGARET HOGAN

Date Sept. 4, 1912.

LAND ACT

Skeena land district — district of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that Herbert F. Wearmouth of Masset, occupation farmer, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands—commencing at a post planted at the SE cor. of lot 1530, thence 80 chains west, thence 80 chains south, thence 80 chains east to shore, thence northerly along the shore to point of commendement, containing 640 acres more or less. HERBERT F. WEARMOUTH

Date Sept. 3, 1912.
First publication Oct. 3, 1912.

LAND ACT

Skeena land district — district of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that Jennie Barton of Masset, occupation married woman, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands—commencing at a post planted at the SE cor. of lot 1545, thence 80 chains west, thence 80 chains south, thence 80 chains east, thence 80 chains north to point of commencement, containing 640 acres more or less

Date Sept. 3, 1912. JENNIE BARTON.
First publication Oct. 3, 1912.

Skeena Land district — district of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that Emma Brown of Armstrong B.C., occupation married woman, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands: Commencing at a post planted at the SW corner of the Yan Indian reserve lot 7 Graham island, Q.C.I., thence N 60 chains thence W 60 chains, thence S 60 chains, thence E 60 chains to point of commencement, containing 360 acres more or less. EMMA BROWN

Date Nov. 18 1912.

Skeena land district — district of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that Alphonse Emond of Armstrong, B. C., occupation real estate agent, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described land: Commencing at a post planted about half a mile north and about three miles west from the NW cor. of lot 1744 Graham island, Q.C.I., thence W 80 chains, south 80 chains, thence east 80 chains thence north 80 chains to point of commencement, containing 640 acres more or less

ALPHONSE EMOND

Nov. 18, 1912.

Skeena land district — district of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that William Brown of Armstrong, B.C., occupation farmer, intend to apply for permission to purchase he following described lands: Commencing at a post planted about half a mile north and about three miles west of the NW corner of lot 1744 thence souty eighty chains, thence east eighty chains, thence north eighty chains, thence west eighty chains to point of commencement, containining 640 acres more or less.

Nov. 18. 1912 William brown.

Skeena land district—district of Queen Charlotte islands.

Take notice that Etta Brown of Armstrong, B.C., occupation student, intend to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands: Commencing at a post planted about half half a mile north and three miles west of lot 1744 Graham island, Q.C.I., thence north eighty chains, thence east eighty chains, thence south eighty chains, thence west eighty chains to point of commencement containing 640 acres more or less. ETTA BROWN

Nov, 18. 1912.

Skeena land district—district of Queen Charlotte islands.

Take notice that Earnest A, Haines, of Vancouver, B.C., occupation laborer, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands: Commencing at a post planted at the SE cor of lot 1513 Graham island, thence north 80 chains, thence east 40 chains, thence south 80 chains, thence west 40 chains to point of commencement, containing 320 acres more or less. EARNEST A. HAINES,

Date Sept 30 1912 A. Emond, agent
First publication Nov 7

Skeena land district—district of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take notice that Della Wilson, of Vancouver, B.C., occupation school teacher, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands: commencing at a post planted at the SW cor. of lot 1513 Graham island, thence north 60 chains, thence west 60 chains, thence south 60 chains, thence east 60 chains to point of commencement containing 320 acres more or less. DELLA WILSON

Date Sept 30, 1912 A Emond, agent
First publication Nov. 7

Skeena land district—district of Queen Charlotte islands.

Take notice that Thomas W, Hodgins, of Vancouver, B.C. occupation laborer, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands: commencing at a post planted at the NW cor of lot 1747 thence west 80 chains, thence south 60 chains, thence east 80 chains to the west boundary of lot 1747, thence north along the west boundary of lot 1747 to point of commencement.

Date Oct 21, 1912 THOMAS W. HODGINS.
First publicatiou, Nov 7 A. Emond, agent.

Skeena land district—district of Queen Charlotte islands.

Take notice that Ella E. Jessup of Masset, occupation housewife, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands: Commencing at a post planted at the SE corner of T. L. 30895 surveyed as lot 1602, thence north 40 chains, thence east 40 chains, thence south 40 chains, thence west 40 chains to place of commencement, containing 160 acres. ELLA E. JESSUP,

Date Nov. 8, 1912 Alan E. Jessup, Agent
First publication Dec. 5, 1912.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Wharf at Sand spit point, Moresby island, B.C.," will be received at this office until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 1912, for the construction of a public wharf at Sand Spit Point, Moresby Island, Queen Charlotte Group, B.C.

Plans, specifications and form of contract can be seen and forms of tender obtained at this department and at the offices of G.B. Hull, Esq., district engineer, Prince Rupert, B.C., F.W. Aylmer, Esq., district engineer, Chase, B.C. and on application to the Postmaster at Queen Charlotte City, B.C.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, and signed with their actual signatures, stating their occupations and places of residence. In the case of firms, the actual signatures, the nature of the occupation and place of residence of each member of the firm must be given.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, equal to ten per cent (10 p.c.) of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the person tendering decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

R.C. DESROCHERS,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, October 8, 1912.

Synopsis of Coal Mining Regulations

COAL Mining rights of the Dominion, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, and in a portion of the Province of British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years at an annual rental of $1 an acre. Not more than 2,560 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Application for a lease must be made by the applicant in person to the agent or sub-agent of the district in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyed territory the land must be described by sections, or legal subdivisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked out by the applicant himself.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of $5 which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall furnish the agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a years

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, but the lessee may be permitted to purchase whatever available surface rights may be considered necessary for the working of the mine at the rate of $10.00 an acre.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any agent or sub-agent of Dominion lands.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

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GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC

Winter Schedule

SS. "Prince John"

—November—

Leave—		
Prince Rupert	Friday	8-22
Masset	Saturday	9-23
Naden Harbor	"	9-23
Arrive—		
Prince Rupert	Sunday	10-24
Leave—		
Prince Rupert	p.m. Sun.	10-24
Refuge Bay	" "	10-24
Skidegate Inlet	a.m. Mon.	11-25
Cumshewa	p.m. "	11-25
Pacofi	a.m. Tues.	12-26
Lockport	" "	12-26
Jedway	" "	12-26
Ikeda Bay	" "	12-26
Arrive—		
Prince Rupert	p.m. "	12-26

SS, Prince Rupert leaves Prince leaves Prince Rupert for Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle, Fridays at 9 a.m.

Connections made in south with railways for all eastern points. Use the Grand Trunk Railway system from Chicago.

For rates, reservations, etc., apply to purser of "Prince John" or to A. E, McMaster, general agent Prince Rupert, B.C.

FOR SALE—Fine yoke of work cattle, yoke and chain. Also five tons fine seed potatoes. For prices apply F.C. Tingley, Pioneer farm, Kundis island.

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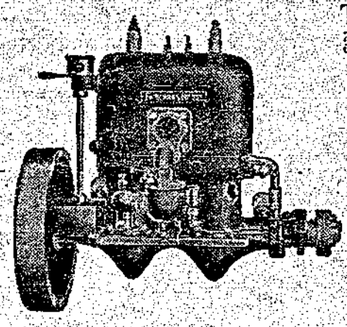

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Real Estate dealers who can handle a portion of the Masset Townsite will find this worth investigating.

Masset is now the business centre of all the development of Graham Island.

Address the owner

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GRAHAM ISLAND IS TREASURE CHEST

Bound to Witness Wonderful Development in Next Decade

EYES TURNED THIS WAY

Islands at Last are Attracting Attention.

On a direct line from Hong Kong Graham island is less than 5200 miles; from Shanghai, 4700; from Kobe, 4100; from Yokohama, 3720; It is the first place the G.T.P. steamers will pass on their way to and from the Orient after the transcontinental railway is in operation. The islands of the Queen Charlotte group have a commercial situation that cannot but mean their rapid settlement within the next few years, for the trend of travel is westward and the slogan of the person who has battled with extremes of heat and cold, is "westward." Here is the last great area of cheap agricultural land British Columbia has to dispose of. The islands are only about forty miles from Prince Rupert, the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, and, therefor, they are easy to reach at small cost from the mainland.

Five years ago the residents of Graham Island, the largest of this could be counted on one's fingers. Comparatively, little was known of the island's natural resources. In fact, the outside world still knows comparatively little of the natural resources in the sea surrounding the islands and hidden in the bosom of Mother Earth. The timber and fishery wealth compares with any on the coast. With the warm winds from the Japan current the climate cannot be excelled in summer or winter. The rainfall is not excessive as in some parts of the Pacific coast. Grass grows green the year round.

On Virago sound which cuts in Graham island for ten miles are a whaling station and salmon cannery which during last year which was the first of its history, turned out large profits for the owners. More than one hundred whales were captured and thirty thousand cases of salmon exported.

On Masset inlet towns are springing up, industries are started and settlers are clearing the land for agricultural pursuits.

Among the east coast, from Masset to Queen Charlotte City, preemptors by the hundreds are taking up land and making homes. At Skidegate and Aliford bay cold storage plants and canneries are in operation or under construction. These give employment to hundreds of men and women.

On the shores of Tasso harbor, at Jedway, Gold hbrbor, Lockport and other places gold, silver and copper mines are being developed.

Along the west coast, at Tiahn point, an oil dril is in operation for there are marvellous indications of oil there. On the Yakoun river, Slate Chuck creek and Crown point, drills have been at work on the coal beds which underlay a large area of the island.

All that has retarded the islands in the past has been lack of transportation. This is being overcome with the steamer service and the nearing of completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway.

The wealth and beauty of the islands must be seen to be appreciated. Graham island has made more progress in one year than Vancouver island did in ten. The half a century then opened the eyes of the world to Vancouver island. What will the next decade bring to a land overflowing with all the outside world now requires? The tend of travel is in this direction and those desiring to take advantage of the opportunities must not let the grass grow under their feet.

W. L. Barton has closed his diamond drill camp for the winter. The drill probably will start again in two months.

Fred Nash, P. L. S., expects to complete the subdivision of the new town of Graham Centre in a few days.

Alan E. Jessup was here this week from the Blue Jacket ranch.

Alan Stewart, of the B. C. Oilfields, is expected back from the West Coast.

C. M. Adam of Graham Centre spent several days in Masset this week.

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