

HAZELTON LAND DISTRICT.

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SIXTY YEARS SETTLEMENT

Bulkley Valley Celebrates Diamond Jubilee in 1926 Says Writer

EARLY TRADERS CAME. Interesting Snatches of Early History are Very Tersely Told

(By L. S. McMillan in Vancouver Province) It takes sixty years to reach a diamond jubilee. Nineteen hundred and twenty-six should be the year of diamond jubilee for the Bulkley Valley, for its history may well be said to commence just sixty years ago.

Early travellers in the central interior of British Columbia did not penetrate its remote fastnesses as far as the Bulkley Valley. The route followed by the first intrepid explorers of New Caledonia was up the Nechako from its confluence with the Fraser near Fort George.

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ser Lake, at the eastern end of which Fort Fraser was built a couple of years later. But the fur companies do not seem to have gone west from Fraser Lake.

Alternative Route

Another course followed by the early traders in their pursuit of fur was from the Pacific to the Skeena River to the Forks (where Hazelton now is) and on to Babine Lake.

Valley Named

The whole organization was conducted on a military basis. The engineer-in-chief for the widespread operations of the company was Col. Bulkley, on leave from the United States regular army. It is from him that the river received its name.

Overland Telegraph Line

From 1857 to 1865 several unsuccessful attempts were made to link Europe and America by Atlantic cable. One after another these had failed. Most people had come to think the project impracticable.

Chinese Employed

In British Columbia hundreds of white men, many Chinese laborers and great numbers of Indian helpers were engaged in the work. On the Skeena River supplies were being taken by the boat Mumford, specially built for the company's service.

Became Highway

Another reminder of the overland telegraph venture was the fifty-foot right-of-way which had been cut for the purpose. Along this the "Old Telegraph Trail" grew to be the chief highway of the Bulkley Valley district, long after the scheme itself had been abandoned.

the same time the construction was proceeding apace from the southern end. By the close of 1865 the line was complete and in operation from New Westminster along the Cariboo wagon road as far as Quesnel. Beyond that point exploring parties had been working on the route.

With the coming of the spring of 1866 the line was pushed rapidly ahead. Working from the Quesnel end, the builders had reached Fort Fraser by the end of June.

But there was to be no next season's work. Already in August, 1866, the Atlantic cable had been successfully laid. Its success meant an end of the overland telegraph. The purpose accomplished in another way, this tremendous effort came to naught.

These tools and materials proved a veritable treasure-trove to the Indians. The wire was useful for making nails and also prongs for fishing spears.

When we reflect that this was fifty years ahead of the railway, at a time preceding the Confederation of the Dominion, and when we consider that all was accomplished in spite of the difficulties of construction through a rough and mountainous region, wholly unsettled and almost unexplored, and when we note the rapidity with which the work was pushed forward, we can not but stand amazed at the greatness of the achievement.

The overland telegraph episode in the history of the Bulkley Valley was but as a lightning flash in the night. Brilliant as

A Few Doses of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup May Stop That Cough

Mr. Frank D. Coman, West Bath, N.B., writes:—"I had a very bad cold and cough that settled on my lungs, and I thought that I would never get rid of it.

One day a friend spoke to me about your wonderful remedy, so I sent and got a bottle of it, and after the first dose I took I got relief, and by the time I had finished the bottle I was completely relieved of all my trouble."

It was for the moment—in another moment it was gone. After it the Bulkley Valley relapsed once more into its primeval solitude.

Just as it had been disregarded by the early fur traders, so was it passed by in the next great movement. In 1869 the gold rush to the Omineca River district began. It was prompted by the discovery of gold—"pay dirt"—by Vital LaForee and others.

The rush soon began to wane. Like most such, its day was very short. New Eldorados were proclaimed further to the north, in the Cassiar country. The wave passed on. By 1877 almost every prospector was gone from the diggings in the Omineca country.

Peter McDonald returned on Friday morning after having spent the past two weeks in the Hazelton hospital.

C. W. Hearn of the Lakelse Hatchery was in town on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pratt and family who came here from Vanderhoof last fall left last week for Edmonton.

During the past week considerable improvement work has been carried out on the G.W.N.A. Assembly Hall in the line of sheeting up the interior in preparation for the big minstrel show being staged by the G.W.N.A. members on Thursday evening.

PRICE OF FOOD STUFF DROPPING

Decline in Sugar and Flour Market—Vegetables Plentiful and Prices Weak

Foodstuff prices are dropping generally. Sugar declined 10¢ per hundredweight this week and the flour market is low at present prices with no advances looked for.

Practically all lines of root vegetables are plentiful with prices low. The potato market is steady but it is doubtful if present prices will be maintained.

Smoked meats are higher, wholesale prices having advanced from 1¢ to 3¢ on cured meats.

Dried fruits are firm with a tendency upwards. Advances are predicted in raisins and prunes shortly.

Butter Brookfield, Shamrock and Woodland, lb. 55¢

Eggs B.C. fresh firsts 40¢

Vegetables Green peppers, lb. 60¢

Fruit Oranges, Sunkist, doz. 25¢ to 90¢

Dried Fruits Dates, bulk, 3 lbs. 35¢

Sugar White, per 100 97.00

Table with fish and meat prices: Halibut, lb. 25¢, Salmon, red spring, lb. 30¢, Ham, sliced, first grade 55¢

Table with poultry prices: Fowl, No. 1, lb. 35¢ to 40¢, Roasting Chicken, lb. 45¢ to 50¢

Table with flour and sugar prices: Flour, 49's, No. 4 hard wheat, 50 lbs. \$2.65

Table with vegetable and fruit prices: Wheat, No. 5 \$3.00, Oats \$2.10

Table with butter and egg prices: Butter, Brookfield, Shamrock and Woodland, lb. 55¢

Table with various food items: Kraft 45¢, Norwegian Goat 65¢

Table with various food items: Pure 28¢, Compound 25¢

Table with various food items: Ontario solids 35¢, Stilton, lb. 35¢ and 45¢

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NEW BOX FACTORY FOR VICTORIA PLANNED Sum of \$20,000 to be Expended if Water Agreement is Extended

VICTORIA, March 29.—Victoria's industrial reserve is to be added to in the way of a new cardboard or boxboard manufacturing plant shortly if the city council gives assurance that the agreement with the Sidney Roofing and Paper Company, Limited, had with the Esquimalt water works department will hold good for an additional ten years, bringing the date of expiration to 1950.

TERRACE NOTES

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W. Jones, government potato inspector is at present in this district inspecting seed potatoes.

Jas. Darby was a business visitor from Usk on Friday.

CANCELLATION OF RESERVE. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Reserve existing over expired Timber Licence No. 44818, situated on Pitt Island, Range 4, Coast District, is cancelled.

Mountain View Rebecca Lodge is putting on a sale of home cooking and afternoon tea in Progress Hall on Saturday.

The W.A. will meet on Thursday of this week in the dining room of the Terrace Hotel, with Mrs. Smith as hostess.

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