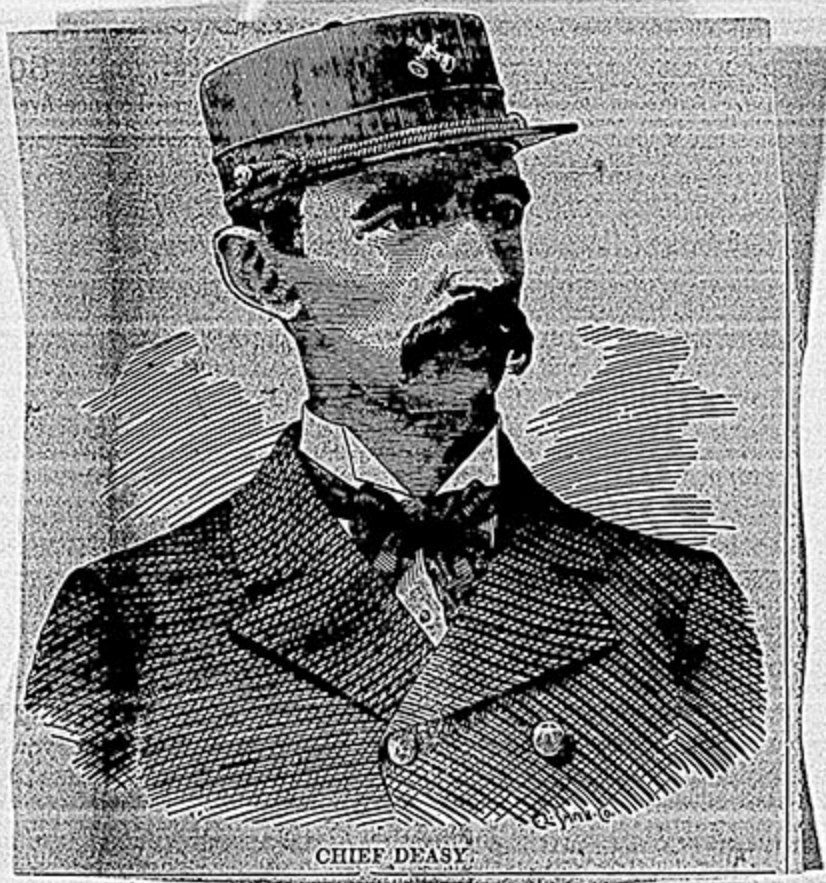


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MS-1182 DEASY, Thomas, 1857-1936. Masset, Victoria; Indian agent.
Box 1 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, articles, etc.
File 11



1924

COMPLETE LIST OF THE
COLUMBIA DETACHMENT OF ROYAL ENGINEERS

WHO SERVED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—1858-1863.

OFFICERS:

- * COLONEL RICHARD CLEMENT MOODY, *Commanding*
- * CAPTAIN JOHN MARSHALL GRANT
- + Do. ROBERT MANN PARSONS
- + Do. HENRY REYNOLDS LUARD
- * LIEUTENANT ARTHUR REID LEMPRIERE †
- + Do. HENRY SPENCER PALMER
- * STAFF-ASSISTANT SURGEON JOHN VERNON SEDDALL

Dead Eng
"
"
"
"
"
"

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN:

Acting Sergeant-Major Cann, George
Gr.-Master Serjt. Osment, David S

SERGEANTS—

- * Bridgeman, Richard
- * Benson, Lewis F
- * Hawkins, William
- * Lindsay, James (H. A.)
- * McColl, William
- * McMurtry, John
- * McCoy, Johnathan
- * Rogerson, William
- * Ryland, Robert M
- * Smith, John (15th Hussars.)

CORPORALS—

- * Howe, Alfred R
- * Wolfenden, Richard
- * Bowden, William (R.A.)
- * Doble, James
- * Hall, William
- * Howell, Robert
- * James, John
- * Munroe, Andrew
- * McKennay, John
- * Norman, James
- * Whitmore, Henry (16th Hussars)
- * Woodcock, John

SECOND CORPORALS—

- * Baker, John
- * Christie, William
- * Ede, Charles
- * Green, George
- * Hand, George
- * Harvey, William
- * Leach, Peter J
- * Simnett, Charles
- * White, John O

LANE CORPORALS—

- * Byers, William
- * Conroy, James
- * Liddell, Robert
- * Murray, John
- * McGowan, John
- * Meade, John
- * Noble, John
- * Smith, Henry William
- * Soaz, Henry
- * Threlkott, James
- * Turner, George

BROTHERS—

- * Butler, Robert
- * Harris, Daniel

HOSPITAL ORDERLY—

- * Hazel, Henry W. (M.S.)

SAPPHERS—

- * Alexander, James
- * Allen, Frederick
- * Alman, Daniel
- * Archer, Samuel
- * Argyle, Thomas
- * Armstrong, Robert
- * Armstrong, Thomas
- * Babbage, Richard
- * Barnes, John
- * Bennet, Henry J
- * Bowden, George
- * Breckenridge, Archibald T
- * Brown, Jonathan
- * Bruce, Henry
- * Colston, Robert
- * Cooper, James
- * Cox, John
- * Craft, Philip
- * Croft, Edward
- * Cusumins, Allan
- * Davis, Joseph
- * Dawson, Samuel
- * Deas, William
- * Deasy, Daniel
- * Delaney, Charles
- * Digby, Charles
- * Dickson, James
- * Dolan, George
- * Dodd, Edward
- * Dorothy, Thomas
- * Dransfield, Henry
- * Duff, James
- * Durham, Charles
- * Eaton, George
- * Edwards, William (1st)
- * Edwards, William (2nd)
- * Eiland, James
- * Elliott, James II
- * Flux, James
- * Foster, John
- * Franklin, William A
- * Frost, Joseph
- * Gillebrist, Thomas
- * Gillis, James
- * Goskirk, Robert
- * Hall, Andrew
- * Hall, James
- * Hall, Matthew
- * Hawkins, Alben
- * Haynes, William
- * Hayward, William
- * Hughes, Lewis M
- * Home, Robert
- * Jackman, Philip
- * Jaffrey, John

SAPPHERS—

- * Johnson, Samuel
- * Jones, Thomas
- * Keary, James
- * Kennedy, David
- * Kennedy, James
- * Launders, James B
- * Layman, Samuel
- * Linn, John
- * Lomas, Thomas
- * Mackay, John
- * Mackay, William
- * Maynard, Isaac O
- * Maynard, Joseph
- * Mills, Thomas V
- * Mould, Charles A
- * Musselwhite, John
- * McMillan, Murdoch
- * McLorran, John
- * Newton, George
- * Oldham, William
- * Watterston, William
- * Pearson, Edward
- * Perkins, Thomas
- * Price, Thomas
- * Pugh, Charles
- * Purser, George
- * Reid, Thomas
- * Richards, Daniel
- * Robertson, Alexander S
- * Robertson, Robert
- * Robinson, William
- * Rodgers, George
- * Roe, Edward II
- * Rowbottom, George
- * Sainsbury, George
- * Sanders, James
- * Scaley, John
- * Shannon, James
- * Shannon, John
- * Smith, Alexander
- * Smith, John
- * Stevens, Robert
- * Sturtridge, Richard W
- * Thurgate, Frederick
- * Townsend, Edward
- * Tribste, James
- * Turnbull, James
- * Wakely, Samuel
- * Walsh, James
- * Walsh, Thomas
- * West, Christopher
- * Wilkinson, William
- * Williams, George
- * Wood, James
- * Yates, Henry

Those marked * are still residing in British Columbia, at this date, 7th November, 1907.
† are residing in Great Britain.

x Went home
Remained
Dead in B.C.

17777 1 17777 1 17777

WELSON, BC

1907



THOMAS DEASY, CHIEF OF NELSON'S FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Thirty-Five Years of Fire Fighting

MS-1182 DEASY, Thomas, 1857-1936. Masset, Victoria; Indian agent.
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SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1901

Origin of Victoria Fire Department

By J. R. ANDERSON

I have had read to me your interesting history of the Victoria Fire Department in your issue of Sunday, April 21, last, and while I compliment your informants on the accuracy of the article, there are some points which they have entirely overlooked.

The origin of the fire department really began with the formation of the hook and ladder company, at least a year before either the Deluge and Tiger companies were formed. The hook and ladder company was composed entirely of volunteer members who paid their own expenses, and, with the aid of some public subscriptions, obtained a truck and necessary equipment from San Francisco. A building was constructed as is described in your article, and a fire bell purchased. The membership consisted principally of business men of Wharf and Yates Streets. The first foreman was D. A. Edgar, who was succeeded by W. Pickett. The first secretary was E. H. Jackson, of the Bank of British North America, one of whose sons is now in the employ of the Prior Hardware Company.

The writer of this article succeeded Mr. Jackson, and is the only living member of the original hook and ladder company, as far as is known. The treasurer was E. Gracini, and of all the names that can be recalled, who belonged to that company were: W. Perritt, L. Wolfe, W. H. Thain, M. W. Thain, P. McQuade, C. W. Wallace and others whose names I have now forgotten. The uniform, described in your article, originated with the hook and ladder company, and inasmuch as at the period of the formation of the company, a great number of the citizens of Victoria were of United States origin, in compliment to them the United States flag was raised in company with the British flag on occasions of public celebrations.

I cannot recall the exact period when the hook and ladder company went out of existence, but all the property belonging to that company was eventually taken over by the fire department, which then consisted of the Deluge and Tiger companies.

May 1933

City Clerk Keary of New Westminster Dies

His Life Was Link With Royal Engineers and Gold Rush Days.

NEW WESTMINSTER, May 31.—One of the few remaining pioneers that linked the modern life of this province with the colorful, glamorous days of the Royal Engineers and the Cariboo gold rush passed away at 2 a.m. today in the person of William Holland Keary, city clerk.

He died at his home, 72 First street, to which he had been removed on April 23 from St. Mary's Hospital. He had been taken to the hospital on December 15.

S. Bowell & Son are making arrangements for the funeral, which will be held Friday morning at 9 o'clock at St. Peter's Church.

The life of Mr. Keary is the story of the Royal City, for he arrived here at the age of 2 with the Royal Engineers when New Westminster was emerging from the primeval forest. For more than seventy years he made his home in the Royal City and few were better versed in the early history of British Columbia or more widely known.

REACHED ROYAL CITY IN 1857.

Mr. Keary was born in Portsmouth, England, in 1857 and came to New Westminster with his mother on board the Euphrates by way of Cape Horn. His father, the late James Keary, had preceded them with the first party of royal engineers on board the Thames City. Mr. Keary saw service in the Crimean War.

Mr. Keary was married in 1881 to Mary Caroline Eickhoff, a native daughter of New Westminster. Besides his wife he leaves two sons, Farnell Keary, California, and James I. Keary, New Westminster, and two daughters, Mrs. J. H. Jones, Burnaby, and Mrs. Roy English, Winnipeg. Another daughter, Mrs. Mary Carmichael, died two years ago in Camrose, Alta. He also leaves one brother, H. J. Keary, Craig Lodge, Lillooet, and one sister, Mrs. G. W. DeBeck, Marpole. A son, William Keary, lost his life in the Great War.

IN PRINTING TRADE.

When Mr. Keary was fourteen years old his father, who had engaged in the coal and wood business after leaving the Royal Engineers, was accidentally killed, December 23, 1871.

Faced with the necessity of making his own way in the new world, young Keary entered the office of the "Dominion Pacific Herald," of which J. C. Brown was the publisher. At the printing trade Mr. Keary worked his way up from "printer's devil" to the top of the ladder. The "Dominion Pacific Herald" was later merged with the "British Columbian."

In 1877 he went into the book and stationery business, which he sold out in 1884 when he was appointed accountant, storekeeper and schoolmaster at the B.C. Penitentiary. He held this government position until 1894, when he left to engage in the insurance and real estate business.

LONG CIVIC CAREER.

In that year he was elected to the City Council as alderman. Then began a long, valuable career in the civic and official life of the city. In 1902 he was elected mayor and held that office until 1909. In 1898 he was appointed the first commissioner of the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society in connection with the provincial exhibition. He had

Passes Away



W. H. KEARY.

charge of the big Dominion exhibition held here in 1905.

In 1910 Mr. Keary lost the mayoralty to John A. Lee and he subsequently went to Armstrong, where he became reeve of Spallumcheen. After a few years he returned to New Westminster and in 1920 was again elected alderman, holding this office three years. Subsequently he was appointed secretary of the New Westminster Board of Trade and continued in that position to the time of his death.

In March, 1925, he was appointed as city clerk, succeeding the late T. J. Thomas.

For thirty years Mr. Keary was secretary of the Royal Columbian Hospital Board, for fifteen years an active member of the city volunteer fire department and he served also seven years in the local militia company.

FOUNDED CAPE HORN. Mr. Keary was born in Portsmouth, England, in 1857, and came to New Westminster with his mother on board the Euphrates by way of Cape Horn. His father, the late James Keary, had preceded them with the first party of Royal Engineers on board the Thames City. Mr. Keary saw service in the Crimean War. When their fathers volunteered for service with the Royal Engineers in the new land it was the first time they had separated. James Keary left aboard the ship, Thames City, while Daniel Deasy followed in the Euphrates, which also carried Mrs. Keary and her young son. The former was acquired in a private ship, which sailed October 10, 1858, and carried the main body of Royal Engineers.

SHIP BURNED. Mrs. Keary and her infant son narrowly missed disaster at sea for it was intended to have them sail on the Argue, Bristol. That vessel, however, was so loaded with supplies there was no accommodation. On the way it was destroyed by fire at sea, and the crew narrowly escaped death.

When Mr. Keary was 14 years old his father, who had engaged in the coal and wood business after leaving the Royal Engineers, was accidentally killed December 23, 1871.

Faced with the necessity of making his own way in the new world, young Keary entered the office of the "Dominion Pacific Herald," of which J. C. Brown was publisher. At the printing trade Mr. Keary worked his way up from "printer's devil" to the top of the ladder. The "Dominion Pacific Herald" was later merged with the "British Columbian" of New Westminster.

SOLD BOOKS.

In 1877 he went into the book and stationery business, which he sold out in 1884 when he was appointed accountant, storekeeper and schoolmaster at the federal penitentiary here. He held that government position until 1894, when he left to engage in the insurance and real estate business.

In that year he was elected to the city council as an alderman. Then began a long, valuable career in the civic and official life of the city. In 1902 he was elected mayor and held that office until the end of 1909. In 1898 he was appointed the first commissioner of the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society in connection with the Provincial Exhibition here. He had charge of the big Dominion Exhibition held here in 1905.

RETURNED TO COUNCIL.

In 1910 Mr. Keary lost the mayoralty to John A. Lee and he subsequently went to Armstrong, where he became reeve of Spallumcheen. After a few years he returned to New Westminster and in 1920 was again elected an alderman, holding that office three years. Subsequently he was appointed secretary of the New Westminster board of trade and continued in that position till the time of his death. In March, 1925, he was appointed as city clerk, succeeding the late T. J. Thomas.

For thirty years Mr. Keary was secretary of the Royal Columbian Hospital board, and for fifteen years an active member of the city volunteer fire department, and he served also seven years in the local militia company.

In the early days of the city Mr. Keary was well known as a violin player and singer and was a member of the famous "Happy Hotentots Orchestra."

FRIEND OF T. DEASY.

He was one of the two surviving persons who came to British Columbia aboard the Euphrates, which sailed from London Docks January 3, 1859, and arrived at Victoria June 27 of the same year. The other is Thomas Deasy, former fire chief of Victoria.

A. DE COSMOS

VICTORIA

WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCT. 10.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The almost miraculous escape of this town from conflagration during the past eighteen months, notwithstanding the inflammable material of which it is built, has lulled our citizens into a feeling of security akin to culpable carelessness. This feeling, in some degree, however, is justly chargeable to the lack of a proper understanding between the rulers and the ruled; the former unwisely rejecting all sensible and practical propositions to secure an efficient fire department. The destruction of property yesterday has had the effect of showing that the inhabitants of Victoria are determined to take preventive measures against fires, whether those who are entrusted with power favor it or not. Self-preservation is the first law of nature, and if those whose duty it is, have not heretofore taken these precautionary measures to put in practice that principle in regard to this town, the reasonable hope is entertained that they will not again place any more childish obstructions in the way of the people doing it for themselves. Fifteen hundred dollars has already been subscribed, within a brief period, to purchase a good Alarm Bell, and establish a Hook and Ladder Company. We look, therefore, on this part of an efficient Fire Department as already done. What is wanting next, is a good Engine Company. In securing this, we hope, no jealousies or bickerings will take place between the authorities and the people. To us, it seems the height of folly to place an engine in the hands of the Police. Its proper place is in the hands of a volunteer company, having the privilege of choosing its own members. The only veto reserved to the government should be the right to dissolve the Company in case of inefficiency. If this principle is carried out, in a short time we will have two efficient branches of a Fire Department, ready at the sound of alarm to save our homes from destruction. With cisterns, engines, hooks and ladders, and two or more well organized and well trained companies, we want a number of Fire Wardens, to visit every house in the town, once a month, to see that all fire-places and chimneys, stoves and stove pipes are not dangerously put up. If so, to order them to be made safe; or if not to remove them and fine the offender. We take it that not a moment's delay should be made in their appointment. And if there is no law to point out how it should be done, the responsibility should be taken whether or no; and afterwards make an enactment suitable to our wants.

NEW STEAMER.—The new stern wheel steamer Henrietta was launched on Monday. Her engines will be here in December. In the meantime, Capt. Moore intends to make a trip or two with her to Port Douglas under sail. She will start on her first voyage the last of this week, and as she will go direct to Port Douglas, it will prove an advantage to merchants to ship directly by her. Mr. Holmes, who built her for Capt. Moore, deserves great credit for the skill and workmanship displayed in her construction. She now draws three inches more water with her engines she will draw six inches; and with forty tons of freight, twenty inches. Consequently nothing could be better adapted for Harrison's river, and plying between Yale and Hope than the Henrietta.

Yesterday morning between four and five o'clock the town was alarmed by the cry of fire. On arriving at the scene of alarm, the flames were bursting from the east end of the large two-story wooden building on the corner of Government and Johnson streets, owned by Thos. Patrick & Co. In a short time it was entirely enveloped in fire, rendering all efforts to save it from destruction futile. And within an hour it was a smouldering ruin. Messrs Patrick & Co. occupied the premises as a wholesale and retail liquor store, having a stock of liquors variously valued from \$2000 to \$8000; but the fire had obtained such headway before it was discovered that only two hogheads of porter were saved from destruction. Mr. Miles who had charge of the establishment and two others, who slept up stairs, were only aroused by a sense of suffocation, barely escaping in their night clothes; one partly escaping from the window and another by the stair—falling beneath his feet. The Union Hotel, which was only separated from the burnt house by a vacant lot 20 feet wide, narrowly escaped entire destruction. At one time the whole side of the lot lying in the second story were in flames, but owing to the great exertions of our citizens, the fire was subdued. One half the hotel was entirely gutted. The stock and furniture was thrown into the street. At one time it was supposed that the fire would extend to Bayley's Hotel and eventually sweep the whole block. To stop its extension in that direction, the house of Mr. L. D. Lowenburg, was torn down. Up Johnston street several small sheds were capsized into the street to stop the fire in that direction. Luckily, with the exception of the Union Hotel, the fire was confined to where it originated.

It is not known how the fire originated. Mr. Rouillon who occupied a large room up stairs as a musical academy, on leaving the premises at 11 p. m., watered out the fire. The shop doors having been closed about 12 p. m., and the flames not being discovered until the dawn of day, the fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. We are inclined, however, to think that it was accidental.

Too great praise cannot be granted to officers and men of the detachment of Marines lying in the barracks at James' Bay, and the Police, for their exertions in subduing the fire, and protecting the property thrown into the street.

Loss.

Thos Patrick & Co house and stock	\$10,000
J. Ducie Cusheon, Union Hotel; Liquors and Furniture	2,500
A. Fellows—removal of Hardware	500
L. D. Lowenburg, house torn down, and personal property	350
	\$13,350

Trifling losses were sustained by M. Prag, L. Lewis, W. Zelner, and K. Gambitz, through removal and injury to their stock.

Mr. E. Coker, Fire Engineer, rendered efficient service with his engine; although the way in which he is hampered by the engines being placed under the direction or control of the Police Magistrate, would almost render it impossible for them to be of value in case of fire.

DEPUTATION.—We learn that a deputation of wagoners intend to wait on his Excellency to lay in order to lay before him the necessity of rendering Esquimaux road passable during the winter; and at the same time acquaint his Excellency that the money voted for that road last winter has not yet been expended.

HORSE RACE.—The lovers of the sport will have an opportunity on Thursday, October 27th, to test the mettle of horses, as it is proposed to hold horse-racing at the Beacon Hill Co.

At a meeting of Union Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, of Victoria, held last evening at the store of Mr. J. D. Carroll, in Yates street, the following gentlemen were elected to manage the Company for the ensuing year: Foreman, W. Pickett; First Assistant, J. D. Carroll; Second Assistant, N. Hick; Secretary, E. H. Jackson; Treasurer, C. Wallcut, jr.; Steward, J. D. Carroll; Standing Committee—R. Stewart, Chairman; G. S. Gladwin, A. D. McDonald, J. A. McCree, W. H. Oliver.

A real estate appears to be commanding a higher price lately, owing to the increased confidence in the price of the proof of a lot 30 feet front, below Government Yards, which was offered a month or so ago for \$3,400; sold last week for \$4,000; another lot 60 feet front, on Victoria street, was sold for \$275, which is a high price previously could not have realized \$100.

When a property holder objected to the trees near his house being taken away, he was told they were claimed by the advice of counsel superior to the fire-fighters down town.

HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY.—We learn that \$1,300 of the Hook and Ladder subscription has already been collected. That orders have been sent to San Francisco through Messrs Southgate & Mitchell, for an Alarm Bell and through Rheinhardt & Brothers for the Carriage, Ladders, &c. Next steamer the apparatus is expected. The committee are expediting matters so quickly that they expect to organize the Company during the present week, and the women; the apparatus will be ready for use.

The Daily Standard

Monday, July 3, 1871.

The Parade and Picnic of the Victoria Fire Department.

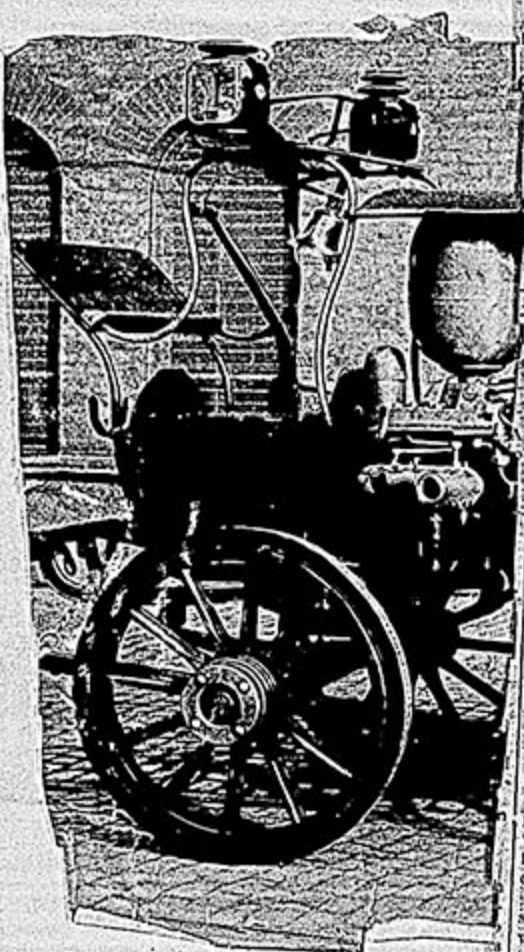
The Fire Department of this city celebrated and observed Saturday last, July 1st, the day when the Confederation of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, was consummated, and known generally as Dominion Day—the day of the birth of the New Dominion. The day was marked in towns generally, by the hoisting of flags (including that of the Dominion) by Messrs. J. H. Turner & Co.), the closing of the stores at noon, and by numerous private parties and picnics, and will, we presume, be the day each year hereafter, in this colony, which will be kept as Dominion Day. One would naturally suppose, however, that the 20th of July, in this colony, would be more appropriate to the occasion—this year, at all events. On that date, in any case, we hear of several "events" to come off, mark the day.

The fire-bells sounded the signal for the collecting of the firemen at their respective houses. A little after one p. m., the several companies, preceded by the Board of Delegates, in all one hundred strong, turned out, in accordance with programme previously arranged, and marched through the principal streets, and to the residence on Douglas street of Dr. Powell. Here they came to a halt, and already a large number of persons had collected to witness the presentation to the firemen of a Dominion flag which the Doctor had brought with him from Canada, while on his late visit. After a brief and appropriate address from Dr. Powell, he very graciously presented the new flag, handsomely mounted—and which it was hoped Mr. Powell would have handed to the Department—the band of the Fire Department gave the "Red, White and Blue." Mr. Duck, the Chief Engineer, returned thanks in an able manner, when the band struck up "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." After refreshments and several hearty cheers, the procession reformed, and to stirring music marched to the Town Hall, where were most of the members of the City Council, waiting to receive the firemen.

Mr. J. E. McMillan, in the absence of Mr. Robertson, Mayor, spoke for some ten minutes, being well received. The Chief Engineer again ably responded.

Having once more reformed, the several companies, preceded by the band under Mr. Holmes, marched around to Government street, over the bridge, and to the picnic grounds at Medina's grove. Here every preparation had been made for the picnic. The grounds were decked with the flags of various nationalities (in a conspicuous place hung the new flag of the Dominion); there was also a fine platform erected for dancing, which was in much requisition throughout the day and evening. Mr. Orr supplied refreshments on the ground, and the Messrs. Lévy the viables.

His Excellency the Governor and party drove to the grounds in the afternoon, and were well received by the assemblage, and the band playing "God Save the Queen." Towards evening, the concourse of persons already on the grounds, became considerably augmented, and the dancing was maintained without flagging until midnight, when it was brought to a finish. The day was, perhaps a little sultry in the early forenoon, but the sun was not so hot as to refer; the grounds looked lively, and the cooling sea breeze in the afternoon seemed to enjoy the firemen's Picnic and



PASSES FROM USE

"John Grant" Bought in 1889, is to Be Sold to Lumber Mill

Twenty-seven years ago she was a thing of beauty, admired by the citizens and christened in honor of the then mayor. To-day, forlorn, her boilers leaking, her pumps are to be sold to some up-Island lumber mill. Such is the end of the famous Merryweather steam fire engine "John Grant," which has been ordered to be sold by the City Council.

What memories does the old engine call up, of fires she has fought, of the stir of forgotten conflagrations, of firemen who have departed, of engineers who have coaxed and wooed her till the engine was able to throw its 750 gallons of water per minute.

Perhaps it were better to end thus than in the sad duty of pumping out basements like the still more famous Merryweather engine Deluge, which came fresh from the shops in the sixties, and did 20 years of splendid service before the John Grant replaced her. Bought during the regime of Chief Deasy, through Henry Chapman & Co. of Montreal, the engine arrived here on the Yosemite on December 7, 1889, and a public test was made at the corner of Yates and Douglas Streets on December 13, 1889, when she behaved splendidly, and acquitted herself under Engineer Bush with the promise of the manufacturers. She was equipped with two pumps, of six inches diameter of piston, and a stroke of eight inches.

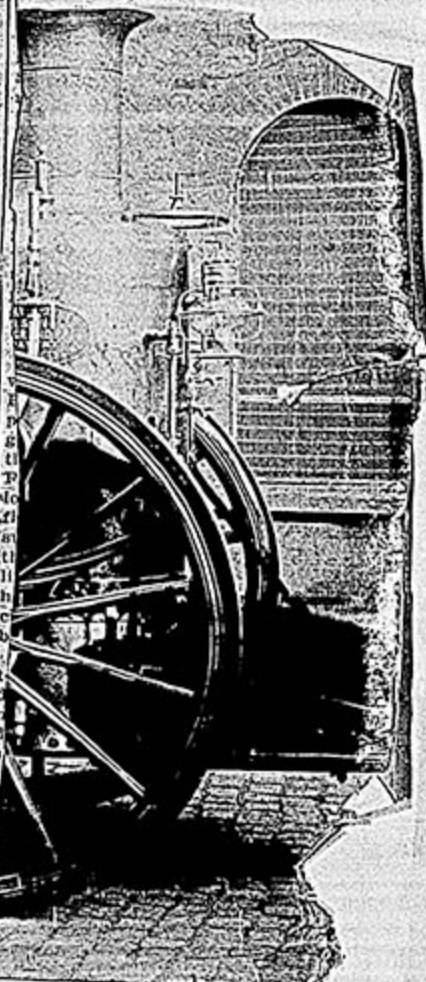
It was a day of celebrations, and the story of the test states that the Mayor was so pleased that all adjourned to the Clarence, then a fashionable house for civic gatherings, where the wine was opened, and prosperity to the department duly toasted.

The Deluge that year had done splendid service at the Seattle and New Westminster fires, and the Victoria public congratulated themselves that with the new engine they would be better able to help their neighbors—perhaps people were more generous in the winter of '89 than to-day—for what chief would dare to recommend sending the best equipment and the most energetic firemen away now to fight a fire eighty miles away!

The engine has long since passed into the reserve, and has been recently at No. 8 hall. One recent report described her: "Test shows average of 428 gallons under conditions of coaxing, unable to maintain an adequate steam pressure for a considerable period, other features satisfactory."

So terminates the career of the "John Grant," the Victoria Fire Department.

—*Victoria Daily Times*



EX-CHIEF DEASY ANSWERS ANOTHER CALL.

Daily Times

VICTORIA, B. C., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1891.

FIREMEN'S TOURNAMENT

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY MAYOR JOHN GRANT.

President Worsley Replies, and Reviews
the Work of a Volunteer—The Parade
and Other Features of the Day De-
scribed.

The officers and members of the Northwestern Firemen's Association, together with a large number of visitors, among whom were many ladies, assembled at the City Hall at 9:30 this morning. His worship Mayor Grant was introduced to the assembly by President Worsley, and in welcoming the visitors, said he was seldom in the habit of making apologies, but would ask them to excuse the fact that he was suffering from a bad cold. He welcomed them one and all in the name of the citizens and firemen of the city of Victoria. He thought it was indicative of a good state of feeling between the United States and Canada to see here so large a delegation of visitors from the other side of the line, and trusted this would exist through all time, and that the bonds of friendship would never be broken. Speaking of the firemen of both countries he would say that he had a regard for them, as in times of danger firemen were ready at all times to risk life and health in saving the property of their fellow citizens. No other class of men faced death in so many forms. He felt that he was performing one of the most pleasant duties he had performed during the four years of his civic career in welcoming the men he saw before him. The Association, comprising members from Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Manitoba did much good. The exchange of ideas was rendered possible by the meetings of the Association and the best measures of fighting fire could be devised and improvements could be adopted which largely reduced risks, and gave the best results in dealing with the dreaded foe. He saw from reports that schools had been provided for the furtherance of ideas in firemen's work. It was not necessary to enumerate the many risks of a fireman's life, but he considered it would be wise for the Association to take up the question of a relief fund, and advised that steps be taken to form such a fund. A modicum could be contributed monthly by the members, and an amount set aside to relieve members when occasion arose. He would not apologize for the damp weather, as a bad beginning might have a good ending. He trusted that the elements would be auspicious, and did not think Victoria would make an exception in the weather on this occasion. Speaking of the Victoria department the Mayor reviewed the excellent work done by the men, complimented Chief Deasy and the members on the remarkably small losses which had occurred,

over and the procession dismissed. In spite of the downpour of rain large crowds thronged the streets to see the parade, which was very pretty, the firemen having the apparatus beautifully decorated. The music by Walcott's band was complimented on all sides, and was certainly deserving of the praise.

The unfortunate state of the weather was against the parade, and on account of the rain many did not turn out, but it was very creditable in spite of that drawback.

TIMEKEEPERS AND JUDGES.

A meeting of the board of directors was held this afternoon, and the following gentlemen were appointed judges: J. H. Carlisle of Vancouver, Mayor Grant of Victoria, H. C. Hipple of Port-

and they were so far out of the reach of the department that it was impossible to save them. This is phenomenal when the size of the city is considered, and also when the scattered condition of the residences is taken into account. The fire halls are in the center of the city, and when a fire breaks out in the residential portion the boys have a long run, but they "got there," urged on by a good chief.

Chief Deasy has been most energetic in increasing the efficiency of the department. When he was first elected chief he had two old engines, an old hook and ladder wagon and a couple of hand hose reels to fight fires with. Now the machines belonging to the department represent many thousand dollars. The two old engines have been made

land, Chas. Ahlmann of Tacoma, and John Fox of Astoria. Timekeepers: C. F. Merritt of Port Angeles, J. H. Carlisle of Vancouver, and F. L. Parker of Astoria. It was then decided, owing to the bad state of the weather, to postpone the championship race until tomorrow at half-past nine in the morning, at which hour it will be started. The adjourned until

and considered the citizens fortunate in having so able a body of men to look after their interests. He considered these annual tournaments of great good, as they gave the men a chance to drill for increased activity. Such activity was a guarantee that the men would do quick and good work when called upon for duty. He was sure that a friendly spirit prevailed between the members, and knew if help from other cities was needed in Victoria it would be given generously. He trusted this feeling of good friendship would continue. This he understood was the first meeting on Canadian soil, but he trusted it would not be the last. In a very neat way the Mayor complimented the local officers of the insurance companies and citizens on the generous way they had met the collectors for the tournament, and in an eloquent manner he then extended a hearty welcome to the visitors from the several fire departments, and trusted their stay in Victoria would be a pleasant one. (Cheers and applause.)

President Worsley responded on behalf of the association and those who had visited the city to-day. Victoria had done her work in the becoming and well-known way of the British, whose generosity was proverbial. While he had been in the president's chair he had worked hard for the association. He reviewed the work of volunteer firemen and detailed the personal experiences of the man who takes his life in his hand to fight fire without hope or reward in a very able manner. President Worsley described the work of volunteer firemen and the difficulties they contended against. In the name of the W. F. A. he accepted the hospitality of Victoria, as it was given, with an open hand. The firemen of both the United States and Canada were banded together in a common cause to fight and should do all in their power to promote good feeling and friendship. He expressed his intention to do away with all possible trouble. He would again extend the hospitality of Victorians and their Grant and the citizens heartily. (Cheers.)

The minutes of the last meeting of the Association having been read and adopted, President Worsley named a committee on credentials composed of Chiefs Kollogg of Seattle, Parker of Astoria, Carlisle of Vancouver, and Deasy of Victoria. The meeting then adjourned for fifteen minutes for the report of the committee.

THE PARADE.
After the convention had again been called to order the committee reported it as advisable to hold the parade at once, and an adjournment was made for that purpose, and the following line of march was formed:

- Cordon of Police.
- Walcott's Band, (18 pieces)
- Steamer John Grant.
- No. 3 Reel and Company.
- Steamer Tiger.
- No. 4 Hose Wagon.
- No. 1 Trench (Shackles on guard).
- Steamer Deluge.
- No. 2 Reel.
- Nanaimo Hose Team.
- Westminster Hose Team.
- Seattle Hose Team.
- Hacks and Citizens.

The designated route was then gone

half past six on this evening. The officers of the association for next year will be elected.

SOME OF THE VISITORS.

- B. S. Worsley, president, and his wife, of Astoria, Ore.
- J. D. Rainey, 1st vice-president, of Tacoma.
- E. Sanderson, 3rd vice-president, of Walla Walla.
- A. C. Pincus, 4th vice-president, of Vancouver, Wash.
- C. Albertson, 5th vice-president, of Seattle.
- C. W. Watts, secretary, of Albany, Ore.
- W. Dugan, treasurer, of Salem, Ore.
- J. N. Hoffman, of Albany; G. A. Burbank of Tacoma, and wife; W. J. Barry, of Astoria.
- Lewis Allen, of Albany; H. M. Lillis, of Tacoma.
- Gardner Kollogg, chief of the Seattle department, with Mrs. Kollogg, are staying here for a week.
- F. L. Parker and wife of Astoria.
- J. H. Carlisle, of Vancouver; H. C. Hipple, of Astoria; Chas. Uhlman, of Tacoma, and John Fox, of Astoria, will stop here for the next three days.

CHIEF DEASY.

The Capable Head of Victoria's Efficient Fire Department.

The present chief of the Victoria Fire Department, Mr. Thos. Deasy, although only 35 years of age, is an old and experienced fireman. He was born in Portsmouth, England, in 1857, and came to Victoria with his father, one of the Royal Engineers, in 1859, and has lived here ever since. He joined the Volunteer Fire Department when 13 years of age as lantern boy. When he was 16 years old he became a member of the bucket brigade. It was one of the rules of the department that a member must be 18 years old before he became a regular fireman, so as soon as the subject of this sketch reached that age he became a regular member of the Hook & Ladder Company. During the lively times of the seventies and eighties, when the three companies used to make such efforts to reach a fire first, Tom was holding the office of 2nd and 1st assistant foreman and foreman of the Hook & Ladder Company. As a volunteer fireman he also held the position of assistant engineer. When the department was taken over by the city and turned into a paid department he was elected assistant engineer by the ratepayers. He served in that position for two years, when he ran for the position of chief engineer against the late Chas. Phillips, who had held the position for many years, and Henry Rudge. He received more votes than both of the other candidates. That was four years ago, and since then he has held the position with honor to himself and advantage to those whom he serves. Since Mr. Deasy has had charge of the department it has been known as one of the best on the coast. The men all think highly of their chief, and the consequence is that they go to work with a will. During the four years that he has held office the loss by fire has been less than any other four years in the history of the city. Only three frame buildings were burned down.

MS-1182 DEASY, Thomas, 1857-1936. Masset, Victoria; Indian agent. Box 1 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, articles, etc. File 11

1924

THOMAS DEASY HAS RESIGNED

Well-known Pioneer of New Westminster Will Retire From Government Service

Mr. Thomas Deasy, a pioneer of British Columbia and for the last fourteen years Indian agent among the Haidas of Queen Charlotte Islands, has tendered his resignation to the Dominion government. He will leave the service at the end of the month and thus close a chapter of public service which runs back for the last fifty years.

Mr. Deasy has worked with the Haidas since 1910. He has made his headquarters during that time on the main reserve of the Masset band, but his jurisdiction has extended throughout a great northern archipelago among all the Indians of the British Islands from Alaska south to Cape St. James.

Mr. Deasy was brought to the province as a child in 1859, by his father, then a member of a detachment of Royal Engineers, and a veteran of the Crimean War. The Deasy family lived in New Westminster until 1869, when it moved to Victoria at the time that the

1777 / 1777 / 1777 / 1777 / 1777

**THOMAS DEASY HAS
RESIGNED AS INDIAN
AGENT AT MASSETT**

Giving Up Position After Fifteen
Years Spent on Queen
Charlottes

1924.
VICTORIA, April 15. — Indian agent Thomas Deasy tendered his resignation to the Indian department and will leave the service at the close of the month after spending fifteen years with the Haidas on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Prior to that he was fire chief of the city of Victoria, and at one time was engaged in newspaper work.

WILD GEESE

The world has adopted the phrase, "Silly as a goose," but, like many other things we accept, without investigating their claims to truth, this statement is very far from the facts.

A goose is a decidedly wise bird; if not why did a certain one cover her eggs with hay to keep them warm when the weather was cold and stormy though she did not take this precaution when it was not?

In some mysterious way these peerless voyagers through space know the time when they are to leave their balmy lagoons in the sunlands of the south, and travel to the top of the world in the land of the midnight sun. On these dizzy migrations, guided by a wisdom as amazing as it is mysterious, these swift adventurers of the air keep to certain longitudinal routes, from all sections of the country, to arrive at last at a given spot at the ends of the earth.

Rising, often at sea level, they set their course to take them above the loftiest ranges, many of whose dawn-kissed peaks rise cloudward more than three miles. Yet who has ever known of a wild goose coming to tragedy on the shoulders of any hill?

On these annual dazzling flights they cover from six to eight thousand miles, breasting head winds and storms that would drive the stoutest ship upon the rocks; sweeping down the barbed anarchy of gales, lawless as unchained furies, yet holding steadily to their course, their tireless pinions beating across the boiling elements for more than thirty hours without rest, while all that time their slashing wings have driven them forward at a mile a minute, or fully fifty feet for every downward stroke.

Wild geese usually fly in wedge formation, with some old leader at the point of the line. This divides the air, and every member of the group makes the most of that fact by keeping a place in the formation, where it escapes the opposition of the atmosphere. The leaders are not able to do this, so change often, while a continuous honking is kept up to hold the flock together.

Then, by some startling method of understanding each other, they seem to come to a common agreement as to when they should descend for rest and food. When these have been secured in some wide field or island where they cannot be approached by an enemy, they rise once more and pursue their journey.

The old question, "Where do the wild geese go?" has at last been answered. For generations it was very much of a mystery, but now the secret is well known. Back of all this migrating are two very wise precautions. The parents of the young birds seem to know they are helpless creatures, unable for some time after hatching either to fly, or to escape their enemies by swimming. This would mean their extermination if they lived close to human centres. Then, wild geese moult once each year, and during that period they cannot get off the ground, and they seem to know that if they were found at such a time along the rivers and lakes near the dwellings of men they would be exterminated.

To make these things impossible they fly to the distant, uninhabited regions beyond the circle, where the cold waters of the Arctic wash the forlorn shores of northern Russia, near the mouth of the Lena River. Here food is abundant, and uncounted millions of wild geese congregate in these places and bring forth their young in safety.

When the sting of winter is felt in those icy desolations the geese come drifting down the world to the frostless sunlands again. But they do not congregate into congested centres, as they did during the summer, they are too wise for that, but scatter abroad from California to the everglades of Florida. This wise conduct guarantees their food supply, and insures their preservation.

And equally as wonderful is the fact that wild geese have not always gone to the north with the coming of summer. It is certain that, if they lived where men do not, they would remain always by their warm rivers with no thought of seeking safety somewhere else. Going to the Arctic then, is something these wise creatures have learned to do to preserve their existence.

But how did they know that the only place on the globe where they would be completely removed from the possibility of destruction at the hands of men, was the treeless waste at the top of the world?

17777 / 1777 / 17777

1934.

(By Thomas Deacy, former Indian Agent, Queen Charlotte Agency.)

Wild Geese, and other Birds remain on Graham Island, one of the Queen Charlotte Group of Islands, all the year round.

Graham Island is 650 miles North of Vancouver Island, The Japan Current is said to be responsible for the mild climate at the North end of Graham Island.

In the Winter the thermometer does not go down to zero. Snowfall is light. Wild Cattle roam over island. Also deer, marten, weasel, land otter and black bears. No destructive animals, and the fur of animals not valuable on account of mild climate.

Graham Island is, approximately, 150 miles in length. Many inlets.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDER

J. M. CAMPBELL, Publisher.

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Peace On Earth.

Once again the heavenly and earthly
choirs join in welcoming the advent of
Christmastide. "Peace on earth and
good will to men" is being preached
from all the pulpits of this Christian
land, bringing with the cheering words
all that tends to make mortal man con-
tent here, and with a hope for the
future. High and low, rich and poor,
all are filled with gladness, taking to
ourselves that happiness and content-
ment found in the practice of benevol-
ence. In the history of the world no
event bears more significance than the
birth, two thousand years ago, of a
Saviour. In the stable at Bethlehem was
the foundation of Christianity, and it
matters little how men may differ in
their worship of the Eternal God, all
join together on Christmas Day in order
to celebrate the coming of the Messiah.
It is a time when we forget material
things, and we long for the gracious
and beautiful things God has placed
within our reach, to make our lives
happier and nobler. It is a time when
the meek and humble look to those
blessed with the world's goods to open
their hearts and their purses, to bring
one glimpse of that happiness which
has been denied them through poverty.
It is a time when the wanderer returns
to his former home and the family
gathers round the yale logs, and love of
kindred grows stronger than before. It
is a time when all the world forgets its
skepticism, and charity governs the
universe. For though many of us may
be far from the scenes of our childhood
there are means at hand to aid the little
ones surrounding us in the pleasure we
enjoyed in our youth. Somewhere the
sick and poverty stricken are hungering
for consolation that we can give. The
"Peace on earth" may be brought to
many a home and the "good will to
men" exercised in the most humble of
surroundings. Let this Christmas-time
bring forth all that is good and true;
let our minds expand even beyond the
boundaries of the house; when we grasp
the hand of our fellow man and wish him
"A Merry Christmas," may our hearts
go out to him, in all his sorrows and
distress, to show that we still retain
that brotherhood here which was
preached on the Mount, and is the
foundation of all that is good in man
today. "Peace on earth and good will
to men," let it not be but idle words
we express, but by our deeds let some
others know that we forget self. When
the recording angel hovers over our dy-
ing bed may we be able to show that
our journey through life was one where
self was forgotten, in bringing sweet-
ness to the homes of others, and that
this world was better because we once
lived in it.

J. Deasy
1911.

It was, before the day of gas and electric lights. We attended the volunteer officers of the fire department, lighting their lanterns and holding them when not in use. In the first Dominion Day parade held in B. C. we carried the strings of a banner and felt proud in our red shirt and black cap with white gloves and black trousers. Its a long way back to 1871, but "memory is the only thing that grief can call its own," as the poet writes. At sixteen years we rose to the bucket brigade, an auxiliary of the hook-and-ladder company. The bucket truck preceded the chemical engine, suppressing incipient fires. At eighteen the firemen allowed us to become active members of the department, where, step by step, year by year, advancement came, until we held every office to "the top of the ladder." That is a brief history of the old system and the reasons for choosing to become a fireman instead of a soldier. Attended a few fires? Yes. Before taking charge of the Nelson fire department we figured that we responded to 2500 fires and alarms. Accidents? A few. Thrown from the apparatus several times; innumerable cuts and bruises; a sprain now and then; timbers falling round one, and swallowing acids and fumes are the lot of the firemen, but he is not supposed to say anything about them. It's part of the life. Nothing serious; but we have attended the funerals of many promising young firemen who met untimely deaths. Any serious fires? Oh yes. We went to the \$10,000,000 Seattle fire, with eighteen men and apparatus, and in those days thought nothing of paying the expenses of the men from our own purse. Then the New Westminster fire came along, destroying \$7,000,000 worth of property, and we rushed over there with food and clothing as fast as a steamer and rail could carry us. It's an awful sight to see a city in ruins. Why did I leave the fire service and return to it? Easy. In my former home the people were apathetic. We were so successful that they imagined wood couldn't burn. When we improved the department by constantly begging for men and apparatus, the people and their representatives considered it a waste of money. Kept asking and adding. The people's representatives imagined the fire department cost too much, considering the losses. We resigned. Turning to Nelson, the losses by fire have been insignificant in comparison with neighboring places. In the business district we have hydrants set every 300 feet and the water pressure ranges from 100 pounds at the central station, to 180 pounds at the C. P. R. depot and city water front. We have a number of substantial brick buildings, which act as fire breaks; but there are too many wooden shacks and rookeries within the fire limits, which cover but eight blocks. The fire department consists of ten paid firemen and I must say that Nelson keeps abreast of the times better than any city of its size in the province. Since I arrived here 18 months ago, the Gamewell Fire Alarm System has been thoroughly overhauled, a direct electrical communication was made with the public school and a means

DEATH CLAIMS
OLD RESIDENT

Funeral Services for George
W. Rowebottom to Be
Conducted Tomorrow

Funeral services for George William Rowebottom, well-known Victoria pioneer, who died yesterday at the family residence, 1950 Granite Street, will be conducted tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at Sands Mortuary Chapel.

Mr. Rowebottom, who was seventy years of age, was born in Sapperton, New Westminster. His parents arrived in British Columbia with the Royal Engineers on Christmas Day

JANUARY 28, 1934

WAS LAST OF GENERATION

Chehalis Phillip Recalled Arrival of First White Settlers at Harrison

HARRISON MILLS, B.C., Jan. 27 (CP).—Chehalis Phillip, the grand old man of Chehalis Reserve, and the last of all the old Indians there of his generation, passed on Thursday to the "happy hunting grounds" at the age of eighty-two.

Old Phillip was of a most amiable disposition, and his death is regretted both by whites and natives. He distinctly remembered events in his early life in the hectic mining camps of Yale, Port Douglas and Hope.

He recalled seeing the "white man" first on the flats west of the Chehalis River, where about seventy-five white men were employed several months digging a channel to divert the course of the Harrison above the turbulent rapids. The men, said Phillip, wore red tunics and lived in tents. He often visited the camp, because the cook gave him biscuits and other tidbits, greatly relished by Indians of the time.

ENDED IN TRAGEDY

That early undertaking to make navigation safe on the Harrison failed and ended in tragedy. A scow loaded with sludge and rock, and manned by several workmen, capsized opposite the site of the present provincial relief camp at Harrison Mills. Four of the men were drowned, and as their bodies were recovered at intervals during the week, they were buried in four separate plots, just as they were taken from the water, without shroud or coffin. "There were no boards or nails to make coffins," said the old man.

What are said to be two of these graves were discovered last year by scientists, and in a lecture on anthropology, they gave it as their opinion that the occupants of the crude graves lived between two and three thousand years ago. "I saw them buried," was Phillip's comment when he heard of the discovery.

SAW ANOTHER INCIDENT

Phillip witnessed the first fatal shooting at Yale, when a doctor was shot by a notorious cattle thief from Oregon. The shooting occurred at 6 o'clock on a Sunday morning, when most of the people of the colorful little mining settlement were asleep.

"I was playing outside the doctor's shack," related the old man, "and the doctor stepped out. He had just started splitting some kindling wood, when bang went the report of a gun, and I saw the doctor slump to the ground mortally wounded. Then a man with a gun stepped out from behind a big tree, where he had been hiding, and discharged a second shot, which entered the brain of the dying man. The murderer got away on a fast horse to the American side, but a few years after, I heard he was found with a rope round his neck, dangling from a tree near Whatcom. That was the first murder at Yale—and then came the law."

Potash is of special importance in relation to the production of sugars and starches in sugar and starch producing crops like potatoes, sugar beets and mangels.

city of Victoria is noted for having the lowest fire loss, and consequently enjoys the lowest fire insurance rate of any city of its size in the Dominion or even on the continent.

It may interest you to know, continued the mayor, that the fire loss in the city of Victoria, over a period of seventeen years, averaged only \$110,000, while for the last four or five years our annual loss from fire has been less than \$45,000 per annum. I think you will agree that these figures speak volumes for the efficiency of our fire chief and the personnel under his charge, the adequacy of our equipment, our good roads, good water supply, and the numerous other items which enter into the question of fighting fire.

DEPARTMENT MET GOVERNOR.

It may also be of interest to tell you that in Victoria we had a fire department years before we had a mayor or alderman, which would prove that our early pioneers were fully alive to the fire menace and realized the necessity for having a trained force to combat it.

In this connection I might mention that in 1850, when Richard Blanshard, the first Governor of Vancouver Island, landed in Victoria from one of His Majesty's warships, the Victoria Fire Department, then a volunteer organization, met the Governor in a body and tendered an address of welcome.

The fire department was the largest organization in Victoria at that time, and there was no civic body to do the honors. Victoria was not even surveyed until 1852, and it was ten years later, in 1862, before it was incorporated.

I notice, proceeded the mayor, that the total fire loss in the Dominion last year amounted to \$139,000,000, while the loss in British Columbia amounted to \$2,667,554. These are staggering figures. To my mind it is of the utmost benefit to bring these matters constantly to the attention of the public and more vividly impress on the minds of the citizens the ever-present danger from fire and the great economic loss we suffer therefrom.

MUST BE CHERISHED

In conclusion, stated Mayor Ansbomb, may I add a word addressed to American and Canadian alike. It is with reference to a thing precious to both. It is this:

If the thing we are proud to call Anglo-Saxon civilization is to hold its place in the forefront of human life and human progress, if Anglo-Saxon civilization is to continue carrying with it the spirit of liberty and blessings on mankind, it must be cherished and sustained, not by divided English-speaking people, but by those in all parts of the world who have a common reverence for its traditions and a common determination to maintain its standards.

for the department, he said that nothing he could say would add to the feeling they all entertained for their comrades.

He thanked Mr. and Mrs. Butchart for their kindness in entertaining the visitors that afternoon, and referred appreciatively to Chief Coop, whom he had known for years. He could not think of anything more valuable than the publications got out by the association.

FIRE BELL SOUNDS

Just as Mr. Herman Michel, Mayor of Santa Monica, California, was on the point of speaking, the fire bell sounded in the hall.

Mr. Michel said he hoped the gong was going to continue, so that he would not have to make a speech. They had, he said, been wonderfully entertained during the convention, but the hospitality they had experienced that day had been the best of all. He expressed his great appreciation of the kindness of Mr. Butchart.

Alderman Marchant expressed the pleasure he had had the last few days in meeting many good friends from the other side. When he had visited in the South and anyone mentioned flowers, someone would be sure to remark, "Ah, you have wonderful gardens at Victoria," and then went on to refer to Mr. and Mrs. Butchart. These gardens, he believed, helped to weld together a friendship between the two countries.

Alderman Worthington stated that they had with them at the supper a former fire chief of forty years ago, in the person of Mr. Deasey, whom he was very glad to see, was spared to be with them.

EX-CHIEF DEASEY

Mr. Deasey said he had been connected with the fire department since he was a boy of twelve, when, with ten other boys, they used to meet on the sidewalk. The first chemical extinguisher they possessed was carried on the back of a boy who later became Fire Chief Watson. On one occasion they turned the extinguisher on behind Watson's back and the chemical went over the fire chief. Mr. Deasey said Victoria had a splendid chief and one of the best fire departments on the Pacific Coast.

Alderman Cullin said he had come down from his summer vacation for the purpose of attending this occasion. He still owned a badge he wore forty-five years ago, when he was first axeman in Winnipeg, and therefore had some knowledge of firemen's duties. He also paid his tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Butchart.

SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE
MADE OF

By Thomas Deasy

There appears to be something very much amiss in this mundane world of ours, and it is questionable where the responsibility rests. The idea is gaining ground amongst those who should know better, that the Christian teaching of twenty centuries is at fault, in more ways than one. Others are wrapped up in blaming economic conditions, under our system of government, evolving theories of life and forms of action, idle and useless, in the presence of mysterious forces, moving deeply below them. Impossible, as it certainly is, to impress the human mind, collectively, as we endeavor to do, individually we assume the responsibilities of omnipotence, and are obsessed with the thought that what we may accomplish is of some importance in determining the disposal of things surrounding us. If we could only learn as if we were to live forever, and live as if we were to die tomorrow, the world would be better off, and our lot far easier. When we look back, do we consider what has made the heart feel sunny with rapture—what has wrapped it up in a mist of tears? Trifles—trifles all.

Do trifles make up the sum of human life? From our waking hour until that when we lie down to rest; from the first moment that the quivering eyelids wink upon the great world and all its doings, to that in which the veiled curtains of the soul are drawn aside again; and the great pageant of life begins anew; what has made and marred more than anything else in the world? Trifles? A Marlborough, on the field of Bleiberg, with a tight boot and aching corn, feels all his glory fading away, and that "trifle" made him a wretch

instead of a proud conqueror. How trifling is the time allotted us on earth, in comparison with the "eternity" before all?

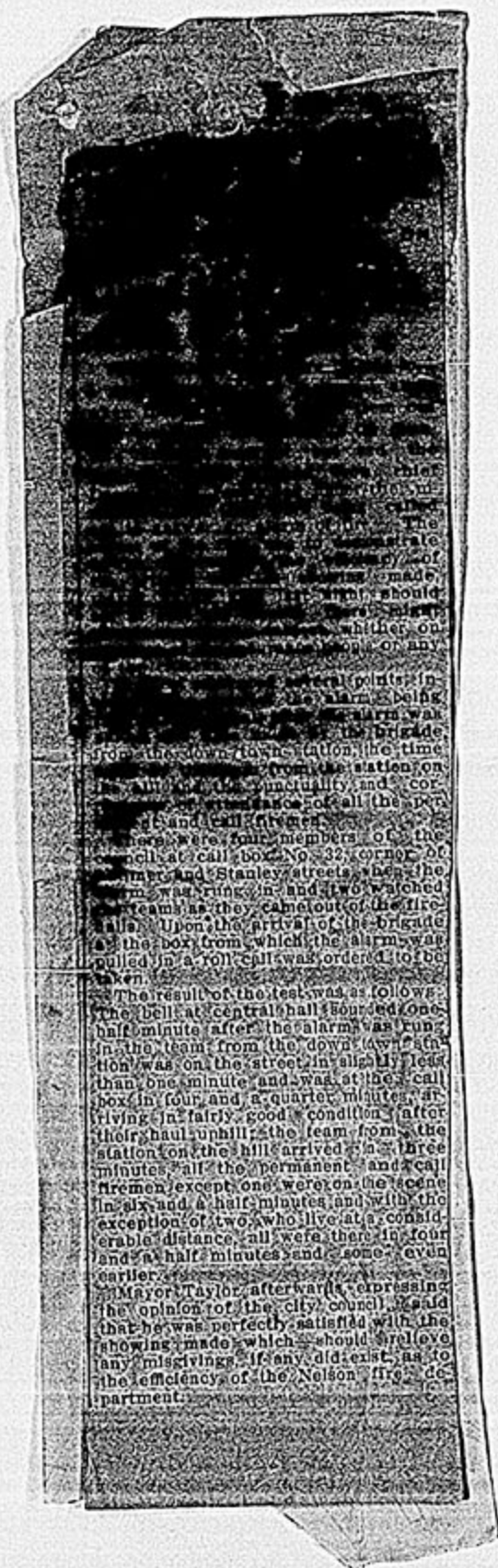
Only a trifle has broken hearts—dismembered kingdoms—given fair countries to war and famine—bowed down the head of majesty, and placed vile slaves in positions where they consider sacred treaties but scraps of paper. Life itself is but the result of a trifling germ that will pass away, leaving behind an earth replenished with other germs, struggling to penetrate the mysteries that now surround us on every side. Time is swallowed up in eternity, and we know little of what is before us, even in this world. One by one the links are broken in life's imperfect chain,

while we keep on thinking that by some possibility we will miss the inevitable end of all humanity. A short three years ago and millions of young men with hopes and aspirations were with us; today they are gone forever, and their mortal remains sleep in the shot torn fields of France and Belgium. Yesterday was theirs; today is ours; tomorrow belongs to none. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, all will be changed."

Destiny has a significance that the mind can scarcely understand. Everything dies, yet everything lives again. We see the flowers wither and fade and the grass lose its greenness; the birds die with their songs unfinished; everything passes away before our eyes, and still nature goes on replenishing the heavens with stars and the earth with beautiful objects. The years back of us are full of voices—voices eloquent and pathetic. We have watched by the couch of many a hope and seen it fall and die. We have stood at the grave of many an early dream. We have buried many a bright expectation, and laid the memorial wreath over many a joy. Withered garlands are there, and broken rings, and vases once fragrant with flowers, and the white faces of those that sleep. Life is mystic, unfathomable—open to subtle influences that may make or mar it. We are embosomed in immensity. Wherever our appointed task is to be done, there must the secrets of the world be learned and the power gained by the use of which we enter into and possess the estate of the soul. "We are—we know not what light sparkles floating on the altar of death."
(Anon. in Spectator)



MS-1182 DEASY, Thomas, 1857-1936. Masset, Victoria; Indian agent.
Box 1 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, articles, etc.
File 11



The result of the test was as follows: The bell at central hall sounded one-half minute after the alarm was rung in the team from the down town station was on the street in slightly less than one minute and was at the call box in four and a quarter minutes, arriving in fairly good condition after their haul uphill; the team from the station on the hill arrived in three minutes; all the permanent and call firemen except one were on the scene in six and a half minutes and with the exception of two who live at a considerable distance, all were there in four and a half minutes and some even earlier.

Mayor Taylor afterwards expressing the opinion of the city council, said that he was perfectly satisfied with the showing made, which should relieve any misgivings, if any did exist, as to the efficiency of the Nelson fire department.

MS-1182 DEASY, Thomas, 1857-1936. Masset, Victoria; Indian agent.
Box 1 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, articles, etc.
File 11

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1913

Indian Officials on Visit.

M. Tyson, superintendent of Indian agencies for Northern B.C., accompanied by Thomas Deasy, Indian agent for the Queen Charlotte Islands, and J. Smyth, constable, arrived here Monday on the steamer Prince John. Tyson is making his annual visit of inspection of the agencies under his jurisdiction. The party visited Skidegate during the week and conferred with the council of that village.

The Haidas of the Queen Charlotte Islands are the most progressive race of Indians on the continent. The Skidegates are up-to-date in their ideas and their village is clean and in many respects a model one. Their houses are modern and would be a credit to any town in British Columbia. We understand that they now contemplate installing both water and lighting systems. A great deal of credit is due Mr. Deasy, who for the past four years has acted as Indian agent for the Queen Charlotte Islands, as it is in a large measure due to him that the Haidas have learned their modern ideas.

Thomas Deasy Speaks of Influx

Thomas Deasy says that there has been a larger influx of settlers for the Queen Charlotte Islands this year than in any previous year.

Mr. Deasy also says that the prospect for a successful outcome of the present effort on the west coast of Graham Island to locate oil is very good. A coal company is constructing 20 miles of road from coal deposits in the neighborhood of the Yakoon river to the sea.

Superintendent Tyson of the Indian Agencies has been making a trip of inspection with Mr. Deasy of the Indian settlements on the Islands.

A BRAINY EDITOR.

We cannot refrain from offering our congratulations to the A. O. U. W. of British Columbia on their official paper as edited by Brother Thos. Deasy.

At least one-half of its columns are filled with the productions of his own mind and pen, and every one of his articles carries conviction with it.

We quote at length one of them entitled "Month After Month," and we ask our West Virginia members to read it, and hand it to some one whom you wish to become a member of your Lodge.—West Virginia Work-

TRAGIC DEATH AGENT'S HORSE

Story That Has Drifted Into Prince Rupert by Word of Mouth.

Ever since the time when Tom Deasy was fire chief in Victoria he has been fond of horses. He was a good fire chief and he liked his horses. At that time horses took the fire engine through the streets with much ringing of bells and running of boys. The horses were everything. They were almost human. They were trained to leave their stalls at the sound of the fire bell, and as soon as the collars were clasped beneath their necks to leap forward and obey the guidance of the driver.

Tom Deasy never got over those days. When he went to Masset on Queen Charlotte Islands, then, it was not surprising that he should seize the opportunity of buying for himself a horse on which he could ride about his work or with which he could kill the Indians.

Just in Fun.

No one here knew of Mr. Deasy's weakness until recently, and then it was only when the story came here, passing from mouth to mouth as is the custom in the North, just as it was with the people who lived before the advent of the newspaper or the printed book. Tom, so the story goes, came to Prince Rupert and left his horse behind at Masset. In that ether country there is plenty of food for such animals, and they roam more or less at will. This story of the Indian agent's was a sociable animal and while its master was away it took a nip in play at an Indian and squeezed his arm, just as youngsters will romp and punch each other or pinch each other in fun.

No Sense of Humor.

An Indian has no sense of humor, it is said. At any rate, this particular Haida Indian had not. He went to Mrs. Deasy and complained that the agent's horse had bitten him.

"Why didn't you shoot him?" enquired the lady.

The Indian went away. He had been injured, at least in his pride. The horse had shaken his arm and the owner's wife had only ridiculed him. She had asked why he did not shoot. Presto! He would shoot the creature. Going for his gun he waited for that minute and sad to tell the bullet pierced the heart of the faithful steed, the price of the Indian agent.

"Draw the curtain." The horse is dead!

Thursday, February 19, 1914.

Beneath the Lighthouse Shade.

(Dedicated to the Late Rev. W. Hogan.)

By the sad sea waves we laid him
down,

Beneath the lighthouse shade;
Where rippling waters ebb and
flow,

Hallowed ground, where oft he
prayed:

Midst countless sands, among
Haida braves,

Bright plumed sea-birds hovering
o'er;

Awaiting God's last trumpet call,
When time shall be no more.

Loving eyes forever closed,
Heart of oak at rest;

Never more the clasp of hands,
Folded o'er great warrior's breast

Stentorian voice, dumb to the
world,

Tongue stilled in death's embrace,
Majestic form, filled with God's
love.

Foremost in life's fitful race.

Though voiceless, sleeping near
the sea

Beneath the lighthouse shade;

Though sands of earth are heaped
above,

Ne'er will thy glory fade.

Though grief and sorrow fills the
heart,

Hope's banner floats on high,
We'll meet again at God's White
Throne

Where loved ones never die.

Brave Irish heart, we love thee
still.

As in the days of yore;
Our Christian hero is not dead,—

Soldiers of earthly kings or of
the cross.

That stalwart body back to earth
is borne;

Its lifelong station where he led
the van

Is vacant, but his strength is not
withdrawn,

For still his spirit pleads with God
for man.

The conquering captain rests, his
battle won,

And ends his leadership; his pan
is dross,

But this great soldier's lead is
never done,

Great conquering soul, great sol-
dier of the Cross.

And shall we ever see again on
earth

A soul so gentle with such man-
hood blend?

Once—when we, too, win to our
second birth—

And hear this kindly voice:
"Come in my friend"

C. DeB. Green.
Masset, Q. C. I.

Not dead, just gone before.
Wet are the sands with tears of
love,
Bright flowers strew thy tomb;
Stars of earth, their fragrance
sweet,
Dispelling friendship's gloom.
Sleep on beneath the lighthouse
shade,
Brave soldier of the Cross;
Let sea-birds sing thy requiem,
Your gain, our country's loss:
In realms on high, free from all
pain,
At peace forever more;
Pray for your loved ones till we
meet,
When time shall be no more.

Thomas Deasy.

FATHER HOGAN.

Great hearts that on the battle-
field have bled
Return to earth and are their na-
tion's loss,
But their great spirits beckon
where they led,

UES, SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1914

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO TO-DAY

Victoria Times, June 13, 1889.

Mrs. Jane Augusta Pemberton, beloved wife of Hon. A. F. Pemberton, expired at the family residence, Glenville, Fairfield road. She was 62 years of age, and had resided here 35 years.

Every day the cheering news arrives that our respected member, D. Chisholm, M. P., is regaining his health and strength. It is announced that he will leave for Banff in a few days.

At the city council meeting last evening objection was taken to speakers using the band stand at Beacon Hill park for the purpose of denouncing the city administration.

Chief Deasy, in his report on the fire department, complains of the presence of powder magazines in the immediate vicinity of the city, and recommends their removal.



FIRE-FIGHTER

A "Champion" Chemical Engine Added to the Victoria Fire Brigade's Equipment.

A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

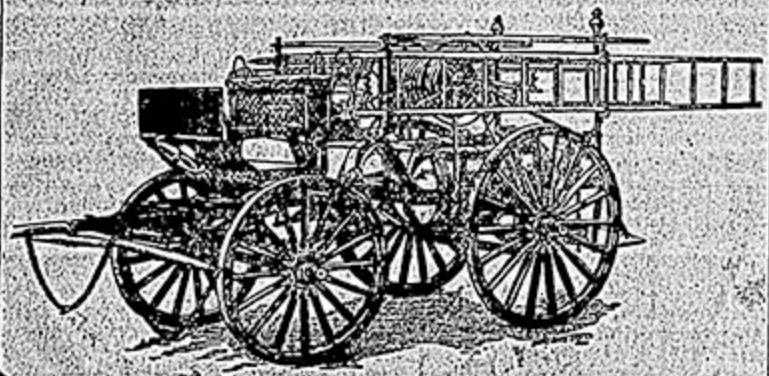
This Latest Addition Places the City's Defence Against Devastation by Fire at the Highest Point of Efficiency.

To say that Chief Deasy is perfectly contented might be to say too much, but it is quite safe to venture the assertion that he is within measurable distance of that happy frame of mind engendered by the assurance that he has now at his command a much more nearly complete fire fighting apparatus than has been in the city hitherto. Last night the new chemical engine arrived on the Star from the Sound and in the words of the fire fighters "it is a dandy."

Manufactured by the Fire Extinguishing Manufacturing Company, of Chicago, Ill., the new engine is one of the most modern and up-to-date of its class. The name "Champion" is indicative of

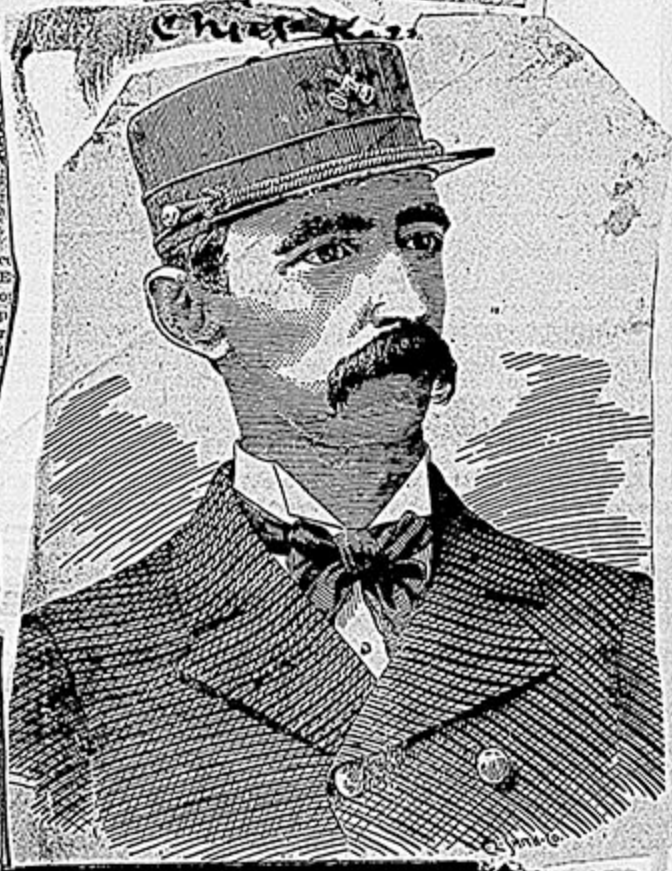
convey a very good idea of the and the following description will interest:

The new engine is a double cylinder, four-wheel, Champion chemical fire engine. It is fitted with two cylinders of 60 gallons capacity each; four acid receptacles; two soda bags; 200 feet coupled special chemical hose; two brass shut-off nozzles and three tips, assorted sizes; one automatic hose reel with brass connecting pipes to cylinders; two brass Eclipse tubular lanterns on brass brackets; two fourteen-foot ladders, one on each side of the engine, on brackets attached to the frame, which when spliced will be 25 feet long; two socket hooked

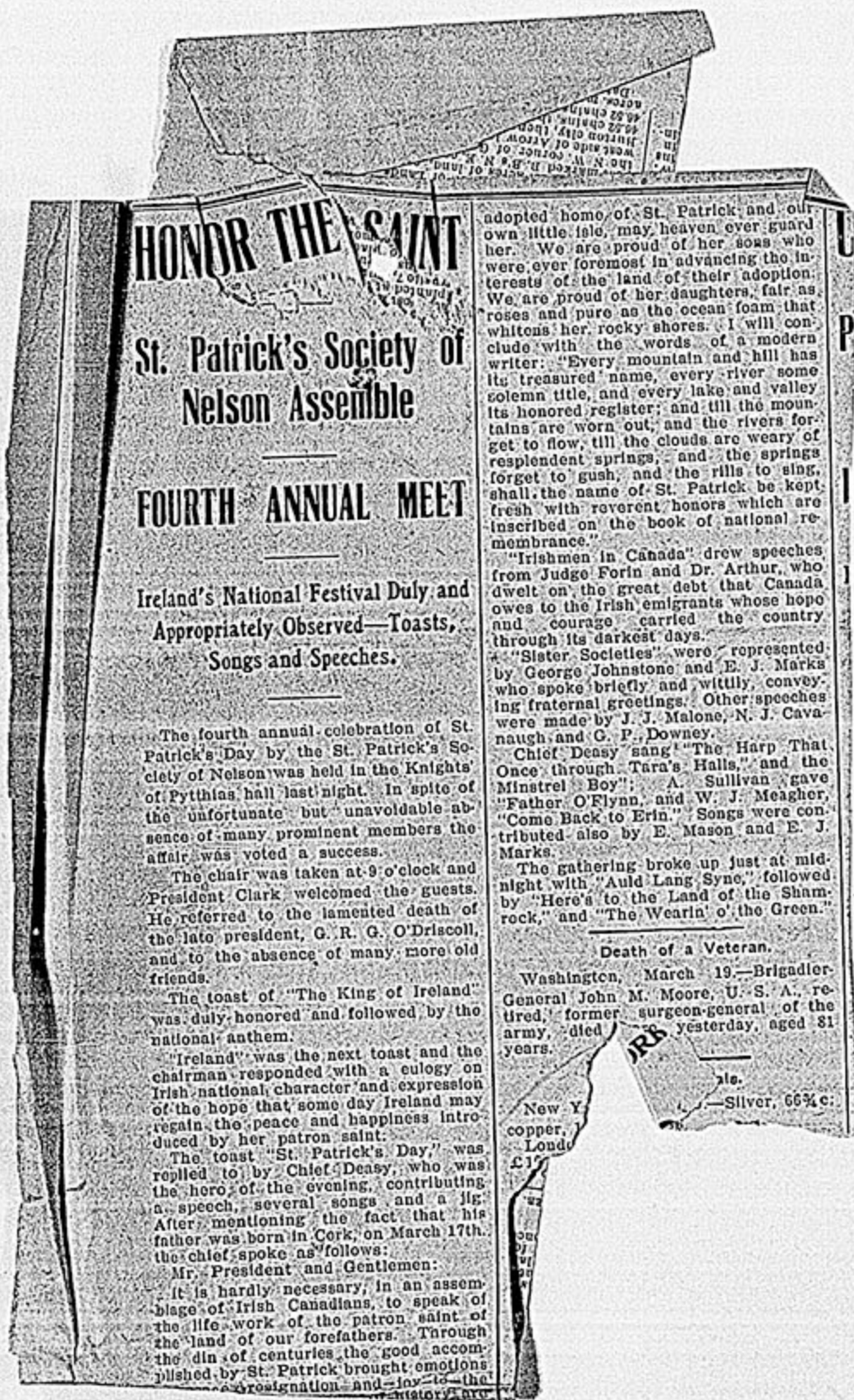


quality, and when it is known that champions are accepted by the fire the standard and are generally the best on the market, as the fact that ninety per cent of the engines now in use can be seen that Vic-

pike poles; two fire axes; one crowbar; two flexible rubber buckets; three wrenches; one here and a flow of wheels are with brass reservoir, ed, and of stme iron, back a smo. The purchased company hand, the as a de-



MS-1182 DEASY, Tr 38, 1857-1936. Masset, Victoria; Indian agent. Box 1 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, articles, etc. File 11



MS-1182 DEASY, Thomas, 1857-1936. Masset, Victoria; Indian agent.
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 File 11

The chair was taken at 9 o'clock and President Clark welcomed the guests. He referred to the lamented death of the late president, G. R. G. O'Driscoll, and to the absence of many more old friends.

The toast of "The King of Ireland" was duly honored and followed by the national anthem.

"Ireland" was the next toast and the chairman responded with a eulogy on Irish national character and expression of the hope that some day Ireland may regain the peace and happiness introduced by her patron saint.

The toast "St. Patrick's Day" was replied to by Chief Deasy, who was the hero of the evening, contributing a speech, several songs and a jig. After mentioning the fact that his father was born in Cork, on March 17th, the chief spoke as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

It is hardly necessary, in an assemblage of Irish Canadians, to speak of the life work of the patron saint of the land of our forefathers. Through the din of centuries the good accomplished by St. Patrick brought emotions to the Irish heart. The pages of history are luminous with examples of noble motives and heroic deeds springing from the glorious example of this humble representative selected to lead a nation from the darkness of idolatry to the brightness of Christianity. St. Patrick was born in the decline of the fourth century and, although there has been doubt with regard to his birthplace, it is believed that his parents lived in the town of Kilpatrick, at the mouth of the River Clyde. In his 16th year he was carried into captivity by barbarians and taken to Ireland, where he was obliged to keep cattle on the mountains and in the forests, in hunger and nakedness, amidst snow and rain and ice. While he lived in this suffering condition his heart was touched by faith and his suffering a source of heavenly benedictions, because he carried his cross in true humility. After six months spent in slavery he returned to Scotland, where he remained for some years and was again led captive to Ireland. His stay there was brief, but two months. Returning to Scotland he made preparations for his mission in the country of his adoption. He forsook his family and sold his dignity and birthright to serve strangers. In this disposition he passed into Ireland a third time, to preach the gospel where the worship of idols generally reigned. He devoted himself to the salvation of these barbarians, to suffer imprisonment and all kinds of persecution and to give his life with joy, if God should deem him worthy to shed his blood in His cause. He travelled over the whole island, penetrating into the remotest corners, without fearing any dangers. He took nothing from the many strangers whom he baptized and even gave back some of the little presents laid on the altars. He always gave until he had no more to bestow and rejoiced to see himself poor. St. Patrick laid the foundation of Ireland's churches, schools and universities. From a country then considered the utmost extremity of the uncivilized and barbarous world he sent out the most renowned teachers and guides, and in this vineyard cultivated the virtue of chastity, acknowledged from the time when the mythical maid of Moor, of the snow white wand with a ring of gold, traveled unprotected through the green isle, down to the present day has been the home of female purity. So St. Patrick began to preach in Ireland in the year 432, and after sixty years of constant labor died in the year 523, aged 120 years. His body was interred in Ulster, in the town of Downpatrick in a cathedral which was destroyed during the reign of Henry VIII. This brief history of the patron saint of Ireland is the most authentic of a man who lived in daily expectation of death, but feared nothing. All his actions breathed humility and today, after fifteen centuries, the sons and daughter of the green isle and their descendants, scattered throughout the whole world, celebrate the anniversary of the birth of St. Patrick. In the calendar of saints, in the history of nations, the life work of the humble man stands pre-eminent. Where the heart of an Irishman beats the name brings forth emotions of joy and love. In that land across the sea, the

The gathering broke up just at midnight with "Auld Lang Syne," followed by "Here's to the Land of the Shamrock," and "The Wearin' o' the Green."

Death of a Veteran.

Washington, March 19.—Brigadier-General John M. Moore, U. S. A., retired, former surgeon-general of the army, died yesterday, aged 81 years.

New York
copper,
London
£10

Silver, 66½c.

From Convention Number of "The Army and Navy Veterans of Canada,"
Vancouver B. C., September Number.
"British Columbia's First Troops Were Black---The Pioneer Rifle
Corps, 1860."
(By Major J. S. Matthews, V. D.)

"The Corps is composed wholly of coloured persons, most of whom are naturalized British subjects, immigrants from the United States on a return of Militia, volunteers, etc." Aug. 12th 1862, and signed by James Douglas, afterwards Sir James, first Governor of the Crown Colony of British Columbia. It informs us that the "Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps" consisted of one Captain, two lieutenants, and forty privates; no horse; no artillery; was organized in April 1860 and is drilled twice a week. The "African Rifle,"---it was ~~called~~ thus nicknamed, for every member was a full-blooded negro---can rightly fully claim to have been the first officially authorized military force in Western Canada. Truth is frequently stranger than fiction."

How British Columbia's ~~first~~ earliest volunteer unit came to be formed was narrated to the writer some thirty years ago by Corporal G. W. Booth, one of the originals of the Black Corps, and who, at the time, about 1905, was a venerable old man with white locks crowning a noble head, and resident in Victoria.

In the early 60's the emancipation of slaves in the United States was a burning question, politically, soon to burst into flame as civil war, and in the heat of dispute, prior to the actual outbreak, negroes were sometimes subjected to persecution. "The colored ~~people~~ folk in California," said Corporal Booth, "were dissatisfied with the law," an expression which, from the manner of its delivery, conveyed the impression that it very vividly described the true situation, "and were leaving."

Delegates from each small colored community met at San Francisco to consider how best they could improve their hard lot. Some had heard of ~~the~~ ~~island~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~South~~ ~~Sea~~ ~~Islands~~, whether a number of them went; others had heard ~~rumors~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~existence~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~British~~ ~~colony~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~North~~. They set aside of the Rocky Mountains. A committee of three was appointed to visit New Caledonia (British Columbia had been so called), interview the Government and inquire whether they would be permitted to land, and be given protection. Governor Douglas received them and extended a cordial invitation to establish themselves on British soil, and as a result of this favorable report by the committee, fully six hundred colored people, so Corporal Booth stated, changed their place of abode to B. C. Those who were not hampered with much worldly goods came up on yip old steamships Brother Jonathan and Pacific, the pioneer steamships which carried thousands of California '49ers to and from the goldfields of Cariboo; the Pacific was afterwards sunk in collision off Cape Blattery with a loss of about 100 souls. But many colored folk, with their livestock, farm implements and household goods, came up on sailing vessels, and were quite an acquisition to the small population which then made the embryo colony.

Soon after the arrival of the immigrants, the citizens of the little capital, Victoria, organized a volunteer fire brigade; none had been needed previously, but the place was growing. The negroes volunteered to join, and do their part; but the white pioneer ladies would have none of it; their's should be no picket company.

Then racial began to take place---none of a serious character, for the negroes were good citizens, and while of much importance to the participants, also afforded much amusement to the onlookers, and greatly enlivened the dull monotony of life in the isolated settlement as yet unconnected with the outer world by telegraph, cable or ~~the~~ ~~railway~~ ~~rails~~. There were hot times in the old days for the negroes; but no-one was hurt, and, on the whole, it was free from malice. There is, for instance, the story of the Opera House fight. An effort was made some American residents? Corporal Booth related to prevent the negro from taking seats in the parquet of the Victoria ~~Theatre~~ ~~Theatre~~, which the latter resented. By strategy, tickets to two seats were obtained, and on attempting to use them, the doorkeeper refused admittance. The crowd of negroes who were hiding around the corner awaiting the outcome of the endeavor by the two ticket-holders then became a howling mob, and carried the Theatre by assault. The hoary-headed old man chuckled, and his body shook with glee, waving his shriv hands. He gleefully visualized the event. "Ah'll never forget this night," he ~~emphasized~~ ~~emphasized~~. "Did you get your seats?" we asked. "No," he ejaculated, "didn't want them; but we broke up the house and smashed the furniture."

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Color having denied them membership in the swanky fire brigade, the negroes decided to form an organization of their own, and their tions ran high. They wanted to be soldiers, and that wise old strategist, Sir James Douglas, gave the necessary authority to proceed.

recruiting. They soon had revengful satisfaction of the fire brigade, for they refused to accept any "white trash" into their army, which soon grew into a healthy looking company of three officers, forty-four men, and nine band instruments. . . But, alas, the Band betrayed them; here they were stuck; there was nothing for it but to admit a white bandmaster to teach them how to play. There must have been a lot of love's labor lost in that early warfare between the whites of the fire brigade and the blacks of the army; but ~~they~~ all got some fun out of it, and bruises were few.

The uniforms, which included a shako, for headdress, were specially made for them in England, and were issued by the Hudson's Bay Company. They were blue, with white facings (another authority says orange), and pipe-clayed ~~facings~~ trappings, though someone, most ungenerously, said he thought they were made out of Hudson Bay Blankets. The armament was muskets---old Hudson Bay flintlocks, although some were more modern---fitted with bayonets, and loaded with black powder and lead ball, weapons dangerous enough when the powder was dry, and properly handled. A sergeant, detailed from H. M. S. Swiftsure, was their instructor, and they drilled once ~~twice~~ or twice a week in a very old hall on View street, Victoria, used in recent years as a roller skating rink. Sometimes they drilled on a "common" of about ten acres on Church street.

In the course of time Governor Douglas retired from his high office, and Governor Kennedy succeeded him (March, 1864). The inaugural ceremonies incident to the installation in office of the latter brought the career of the black brigade to a cold, cruel end. The negroes wished to form an escort, or guard of honor, for Governor Kennedy upon his arrival, but the white citizens were balky, and by no means fell in with the idea. The civic authorities finally banned the pageant lest uncivil war should break out, and ~~was~~ the honors proposed for the new representative of Her Majesty. But the negroes, not to be outdone, and with mixed feelings of good and bad humor, paraded to the old hall on the day of arrival of the good Queen's representative, and in place of forming a dark colored pageant ~~around~~ around him in his new home, repaired to a restaurant kept by one of their number on Beacon Hill, where they did honors to themselves (and to him by proxy) by consuming dozens of chickens and much beer.

But Governor Kennedy was diplomatic---his courtesy was proverbial---so the next day, the 30th March, 1864, to the sound of fife and drum, they marched to the old brick Parliament Buildings, across James Bay, to pay their respects to the new Governor. The Band played "God Save the Queen," and Governor Kennedy reviewed the Company, and then addressed them. He regretted, he said, that he was compelled to refuse them official recognition, as there was no authority for their existence. Now that the Hudson Bay Company's administrative powers were ended. Vancouver Island was now a Crown Colony, and their existence had not been authorized by the Imperial Government of the United Kingdom. "I regret I cannot recognize you," declared the early British Columbia statesman. "I would advise you to disband. You are liable-----" but he refrained from passing comment that would do little good, and would ~~merely~~ merely have caused offence to a body of loyal, peaceful citizens. The corps saluted, crossed the old wooden bridge, now replaced by the splendid Causeway in front of the beautiful Empress Hotel, but which then spanned an arm in the sea. Then they marched to Beacon Hill, indulged in a skirmishing march, returned, and gave up their arms to the Hudson's Bay Company, and so passed out of existence and almost out of mind. They existed four years; the last record is dated April 6th, 1864.

In the meantime their successors, "The Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps" had been organized in 1861. The martial ardor of the negro force had died down; the spirit of revenge on the fire brigade no longer fanned it to flame; none could take from them the honor of being the pioneer corps (Volunteer--T. D.) of the West; as a unit the men of color vanished. Many of their descendants, highly respected, are citizens of Victoria, and, no doubt a few of these followed in their loyal father's footsteps and served their adopted land in the Great War."