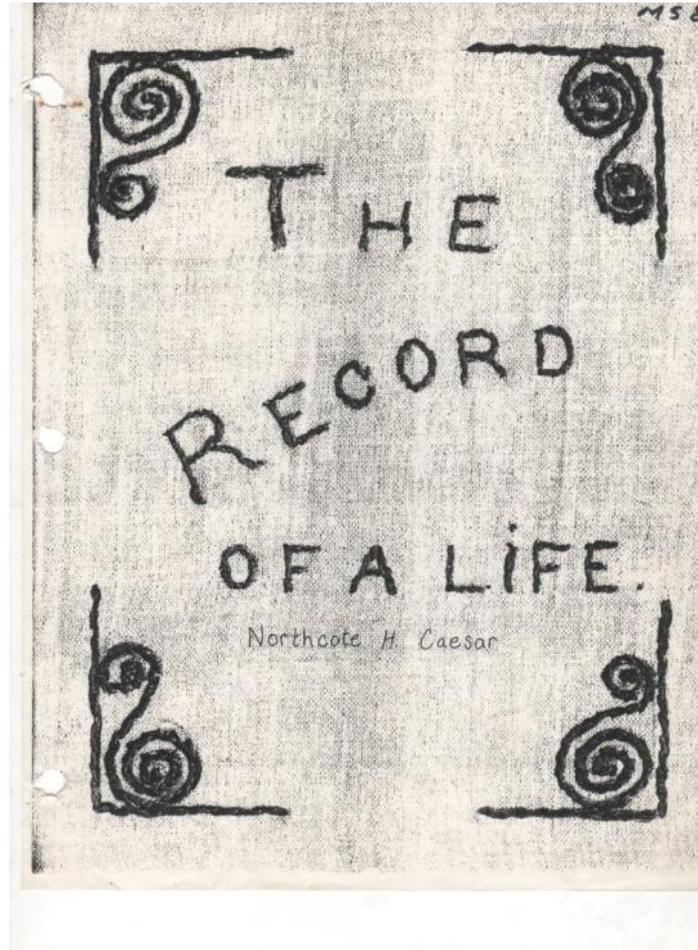


RECORD OF A LIFE

NORTHCOTE CAESAR



THE
RECORD
OF A LIFE

NORTHCOTE H.
CAESAR

EARLIEST MEMORIES OF YOUTH

The earliest memories that I can remember, at probably 5 or 6 years
Whilst sitting on a hassock in front of the nursery fire
With a nice clean white pinafore on about half a dozen shot fell in my lap
Making long black stripes down my pinny and in my lap
And being very distressed about the dirty pinny
Probably would not have been if I had done it myself
But it turned out that a boy on the other side of the river
Was shooting starlings and shot had fallen down the chimney into my lap
But no damage was done except to my pinny and peace of mind

Another time I took a piece of horseradish off the kitchen table
And chewed it up, poisoning myself quite seriously it seems
As I was prayed for in the Village Church on two Sundays
And I have always remembered the jar of leaches up on the shelf
Nasty slimy things I thought them to be, but only one was used on me
I still have vivid recollections of all that happened to me
One implement of torture was like a tomato can on legs with a small pump
The handle being worked up and down like a toy fire engine
And very much disliked, with much weeping

I also remember my father taking photographs on wet glass plates
He had a tripod on which a box was set covered by a black cloth
Under which he put his head and focused the lens of the camera
He then went to the cellar and dipped a piece of glass into some liquid
Covered it with a cloth and took it to the camera placing it inside
Then exposed it for half a minute or so, and taking it out under cover
Returned to the cellar and put it into another pan of liquid to develop
Then washed it off this was the negative and I still have photos
Taken at this time 1870 in perfect condition, of our house and Village

Bridge House at Downton near Salisbury where I was born
Sited beside the river Avon was a 3 1/2 storey house
One storey was level with the river bank with a small lawn in front
French Windows opening on to the river & banks protected by iron railings
On one occasion the river flooded and the lower rooms billiard & kitchen
Had water from one to one and a half feet in them deep
Spoiling the walls and causing lots of work moving carpets and things
I think it caused lots of damage with the mud and rubbish
The next storey was level with the road and approach to the bridge
Flower garden between house and road all enclosed by a brick wall
A flight of steps leading to the lower story and the river
Our main garden was on the opposite side of the road near the bridge
About 2 acres enclosed by a high brick wall
Containing stable, coach house & barn with a small yard paved with brick
Also a vegetable garden and orchard under grass where goat was kept
To give us milk and draw round a cart in which we rode
But she eventually objected to this and won her release from work
Much to our sorrow. The apple trees had lots of mistletoe on them
And there were currants, raspberries and gooseberries
Had yellow and green very large really nice when ripe
We don't seem to get these out here at least I have never seen them
Who would not like the days of childhood in the gooseberry patch

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Who would not like the days of childhood in the gooseberry patch

Downton Village was situated where two roads came together forming a Y
As they both approach the bridge, the Crown Inn filling the crotch of the Y
A very small house being Post Office & shop with sweets in bottles
These were on shelves in the window which was very small
Sometimes displaying Christmas Cards Valentines or small wooden dolls
The Church in which I was christened was located a little further along
A typical Old Country Church built of stone & surrounded by Graveyard
Then there was a Paper Mill on the opposite side of the river from us
And a Tannery a little way down the stream with two or three cottages
With a few nice big houses scattered round in their own grounds
Walks round about were most delightful & by the river bordered by willows
Sweet scented Meadowsweet large Forgetmenot Kingcups and Reeds
In the woods and parks masses of Primroses Violets Bluebells Dafodils
Cowslips Hyacinths and many others Snowdrops starting the show
Together with the green hedges and flowering May a very pretty sight
Never to be forgotten when once seen and hard to visualise if unseen
England in spring time is a beautiful place. Parts of B.C. Grand::
England small and neat. B.C. Wild and majestic with towering mountains.

In 1871 I went to a Dames School in Hastings Mrs Duff Headmistress
I dont think that I liked it very much but was not there long
However I liked St Leonards with the sands and rocky shores
Lots of little pools with fish and crabs left behind by the receding tide
And large enough to sail our boats in and paddle about
An ideal place for youngsters and a joy always remembered

In 1872 I went to school at Harlow in Essex with my elder brother
Myself wearing petticoats very much resented
When I found that I was the only boy wearing that kind of costume
Receiving a good bit of chaff from the other boys about it
However this was changed the next term and I went back in trousers
I did not like school at first as I was not allowed to play in the fields
As I was wearing irons on my foot in an endeavour to straighten it
But after two terms the irons were taken off and I could do as I liked
I had previously had the foot cut without success (18
But now I began to enjoy life better not good at lessons but enjoyed sports
And managed enough lessons so as not to be kept in after school hours
Managed to get one prize for studies much to my surprise
But quite a few for sports long jump, high jump, and hurdles
We were only allowed two prizes a year but could choose our own
Unless it happened to be a special prize donated by some one
I generally chose a cricket bat or ball or tennis racquet
But won two or three other things at one time or another
My two last years I was Captain of the Cricket and Football teams
On leaving school I was presented with a very nice Dressing Case
By the boys of the School a great surprise, but very much appreciated
I am still very proud of it as it showed their kindly feeling towards me
And still retain the letter that accompanied the Dressing case
Also the Case rather dilapidated as regards contents by use
I really enjoyed my school days and was sorry to leave

At first my mathematics was very bad until one day my master Mr Ward
Called me up and said that I ought to do better than I was doing (book
Explained that I was trying to learn off my Euclid as written in the book
He told me that given a proposition I ought to work it out for myself
And also gave me a lot of advice about Algebra making me quite keen

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Very shortly I was head of my class and going ahead well
And in one Exam I scored 100% I think that my master was very pleased
But I certainly owed it all to him for his trouble in explaining
And I quite enjoyed my mathematics and was very keen to get it right

One morning every jug in our dormitory was split and the water ice
So we had to go down to our bath room to wash quite a cold job
We only had a small fireplace in the schoolroom another in diningroom
To warm the whole place so you can imagine there was not much heat
In fact we were let off lessons sometimes as it was too cold in school
To do any work and keep our hands warm so had lots of skating instead
Very much appreciated as we did not often get the ice for skating

In 1879 a game of Football affected my whole outlook on life
It was at the time of my confirmation we were playing Hodesdon School
They were three goals ahead in the last half
And it did not look as if we had a chance our goal keeper seemed lost
Being Cpt and quite anxious to win I took the goal keepers place
And switched the forwards a little and after saving one or two goals
I said to myself, If I believe in the Lord he will surely help us
And I tried to convince myself that we were going to win
This surely happened as in the last quarter hour we scored four goals
Making a very exciting game and so impressed me
That I have always thought since that someone was looking after me
And I need not worry about anything all would come right in the end
I have found it a great help when things looked rather bad
I still have a newspaper cutting of this Football game
In December 1882 I left school and in June 1883 I started for Canada.

There was a dog we had when we were very young
A large Newfoundland which we used to call Nero
Very fond of this fine dog we were and used to ride upon his back
When on a walk with an assistant at our side
One day we came to a bridge of single plank across a creek
And our assistant thought to give the dog a bath
So as the dog was going over the water he turned the plank
He fell not in the stream but on the rocks at the side upon his back
And this was broken so he had to be destroyed
Deprived of our playmate our sorrow did not abate for many days
And a large gap in our play time friends was made

When about six or seven years we had much fun in catching eels
Said to be nice for making meals
But wether nice or not I really quite forget
At night we baited hooks with dough and set it by a hole
Seen in the rivers muddy bottom & tied the line to the iron railing
Placed along the river bank to keep us safe from falling in
In the morning with much pulling we landed our catch upon the bank
Long wrigling things and very slimy looking
By others soon despatched and with much trouble unhooked
As they seemed to have swallowed the hook away down inside.

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Our food at school was plain but good, occasional lapses such as rancid (butter
 Breakfast we had tea with bread & butter, top table eggs or bacon
 Dinner meat vegetables and pudding, except Saturdays then cheese
 Always a glass of beer for dinner two if we could arrange it
 Supper was tea with bread & butter no cake or jam allowed
 If the bread was rather stale boys would agree to pocket some
 This would bring on new bread which disappeared very rapidly
 The pieces pocketed would be toasted at the school room fire
 Before the masters arrived, and sometimes being caught at the job
 Result no leave or many lines to write as it was strictly forbidden

One Sunday we were all sitting round on the grass reading in our field
 When a ram appeared and charged some of the boys and knocked them down
 Always ready for fun I waited for him and when he charged stepped aside
 Caught him by the neck and hung on not being strong enough to hold him
 Other boys joined in to help put him out of the field
 For a short time his visits were fairly frequent and I was called on
 By the Head to put him out much to the amusement of all and fun for me

When the Head went visiting he took me along to hold the horse
 And one day when he had gone into a house the horse being quite fresh
 I thought that I would take a drive and get back in time
 Before the Head came out but got busy watching a swarm of bees
 And stayed a little too long, when I got back I waited and waited
 When suddenly a man very much out of breath arrived from the school
 Called Chubby who used to clean the boots pump the water and do odd jobs
 He said that now I was in for it as the Head had to walk home
 When we got back they were all at dinner so I had to go up and explain
 Telling him that the cob was very fresh and I had driven him along
 But had got back too late. He just told me to sit down to dinner
 I expected that it would be my last trip with the Head to hold the horse
 Or a smash up as he knew that the cob was very fresh and in good shape
 But he never said another word about it and I had many more drives
 I think that he was much relieved that I had not had an accident
 The Head often took services in outlying Villages for other clergy
 Who wanted to get away and I nearly always went with him much to my joy
 For I always got off learning Christian Year which I much disliked

Our extra holidays were very scarce never given except for passing exams
 But one day with a good deal of cheek it seemed to me (for cricket)
 I asked the Head if he would give us a holiday as it was such a nice day
 This was just after dinner. He smiled a little then said we'll see
 But when we got in for our lessons he was in the school room
 As we got to our seats, He said Cpt Caesar has asked for a holiday
 Now this is very unusual, However I will grant you a holiday this time
 So now you are dismissed. For my cheek I got a ride round the play ground
 On the boys shoulders. The Head got three cheers and a tiger
 Who says that cheek does not pay sometimes?

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SOME EXPERIENCES OF A PIONEER

In eighteen hundred and eighty three I left Old Englands shore
 To try and make a living and get of gold some more
 From the London Docks the Steamer Ocean King
 Myself and fourteen passengers did bring
 The names of our own party together traveling
 Mr & Mrs A.F. Venables with their partner Mr Venning
 And their three children Vernon, Rusell, and Peter
 With myself being escorted out a fortune seeker
 And to Canada the land of hope I had now started
 But from all my friends and near relations parted

The first four days were very fine and warm
 With no sign at all, to fortell the coming storm
 Then came winds the seas began to rise
 And waves became like mountains to the skies
 But galantly the boat did surely ride
 Though tossed about and rolled from side to side
 With bow and stern at times so very steep
 Yet on the well deck water three feet deep
 With rope from fore to aft for sailors hands to grasp
 But soon some cattle pens went overboard quite fast
 Then two boats stove in really quite complete
 Next went half a mast which made us not so neat
 Last to go was sailor man to never more be seen
 The engine stoped and all was done so it did seem
 To help. Although the boat was swept by seas
 Impossible no doubt a thing to do in such a breeze

For four days out of the fourteen then we were
 Tossed by the ocean up and down most everywhere
 First up and up until she reached the top
 Then down and down and down you think she'll never stop
 And as she rose again the water fell on deck
 With force that gave the ship a real check
 Being young to me t'was lots of fun nor did I fear
 But some there were who really felt quite queer
 The Captain said the worst storm he had ever seen
 Being four days over due perhaps it may have been

I do not think there was a bath upon the boat
 At least I never saw one, but here I make a note
 That a tarpaulin hung in front of a cattle pen
 Was the bathroom at least for the men
 A sailor turned the hose upon us, quite cold enough
 Except on days when it was much too rough

We arrived at last at Point Levis opposite Quebec
 Then passing Customs and getting our baggage check
 The train we board and passing Montreal
 Arrive at Toronto and stay four days in all
 A nice clean city Yonge Street very long
 My first impression but may be quite wrong

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Then to Collingwood we go to board another ship
To take us to Port Arthur and a railway slip
This Lake of fresh water was a surprise to see
Long out of sight of land one might be on the sea
We had nice weather nor was there any storm
I forget the time it took ,but it seemed quite long

Arriveing at Port Arthur, To Winnipeg we start the rails just laid
Our train t'was said, the first passenger o'er the road now made
And surely so it seemed the way it pitched and rolled
At fifteen or twenty miles I think all told it went all told
And sometimes not quite three o'er trestles high
Built logs on end three decks and more or something nigh
Whilst going over some the whole thing swayed
And some on board were really quite dismayed
In places to we walked along the track
The speed quite slow and of time no lack
Once whilst going slow a car did leave the track
The train was stoped and very soon they put it back
I think our engine was named Dufferin or Lord Dufferin
And a reception of some sort was staged for when we got in
Flags on engine and the place with flags arrayed
Also the crowd that had gathered at the station
Seemed to denote that something had disturbed the Nation
But we were anxious to get out and look about
So did not hear the speeches that were made , I have no doubt

At Winnipeg we stayed ten hours and whilst looking round
A wagon drawn by Oxen boged to the hubs we found
On Main Street by the Hudson Bay
A scene t'was said you saw most every day
And here our party did divide as we thought best
Following C.P.R. to end of rails I went west
The others after a short delay to Shellmouth went
The last part of their trip by Oxen, and their goods were sent

On my arrival at Moosomin a Boardinghouse I found
And stayed two days a man to find and look around
This Boardinghouse was built of lumber up and down quite sleek
And slats to cover cracks but of these some did lack
Inside partitions much the same t'was quite absurd
Uncovered cracks and your neighbours seen and heard
Building quite a shell no time to paper or complete
But welcome to those hunting land on which to grow some wheat
Proprietor most obliging under these adverse conditions
Really trying to cater to those on many expeditions
The town was very busy building houses stores and an Hotel
Just a future city, Large or Small, Who can tell ?
A few years later an item appeared in the local paper
The Queens Hotel was burnt to the ground with very heavy loss of life
But fortunately the lives were very small in size
The Hotel had been moved into the middle of the road
To make room for another on the same site, when the fire took place

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We had nice weather nor was there any storm
I forget the time it took, but it seemed quite long

Arriveing at Port Arthur, To Winnipeg we start the rails just laid
Our train t'was said, the first passenger o'er the road now made
And surely so it seemed the way it pitched and rolled
At fifteen or twenty miles I think all told it went all told
And sometimes not quite three o'er trestles high
Built logs on end three decks and more or something nigh
Whilst going over some the whole thing swayed
And some on board were really quite dismayed
In places to we walked along the track
The speed quite slow and of time no lack
Once whilst going slow a car did leave the track
The train was stoped and very soon they put it back
I think our engine was named Dufferin or Lord Dufferin
And a reception of some sort was staged for when we got in
Flags on engine and the place with flags arrayed
Also the crowd that had gathered at the station
Seemed to denote that something had disturbed the Nation
But we were anxious to get out and look about
So did not hear the speeches that were made, I have no doubt

At Winnipeg we stayed ten hours and whilst looking round
A wagon drawn by Oxen boged to the hubs we found
On Main Street by the Hudson Bay
A scene t'was said you saw most every day
And here our party did divide as we thought best
Following C.P.R. to end of rails I went west
The others after a short delay to Shellmouth went
The last part of their trip by Oxen, and their goods were sent

On my arrival at Moosomin a Boardinghouse I found
And stayed two days a man to find and look around
This Boardinghouse was built of lumber up and down quite slack
And slats to cover cracks but of these some did lack
Inside partitions much the same t'was quite absurd
Uncovered cracks and your neighbours seen and heard
Building quite a shell no time to paper or complete
But welcome to those hunting land on which to grow some wheat
Proprietor most obliging under these adverse conditions
Really trying to cater to those on many expeditions
The town was very busy building houses stores and an Hotel
Just a future city, Large or Small, Who can tell ?
A few years later an item appeared in the local paper
The Queens Hotel was burnt to the ground with very heavy loss of life
But fortunately the lives were very small in size
The Hotel had been moved into the middle of the road
To make room for another on the same site, when the fire took place

In Moosomin I found a man to take me to my destination
A tent located on a Homestead in a new location
We traveled in a democrat round sloughs and lake
For sixteen miles seven of these without a track of any sort
The driver knew the direction and drove ahead avoiding sloughs

At the start we were most surprised to see behind
Old tracks of the Red River Carts nor did they mind
But go straight ahead through lake or slough
Nor could we get near, for bogged we'd be, we knew
On more enquiry later, we found that then they had been dry
Rainy seasons since had filled the sloughs, we did not try

Round tent located on the prairie nothing else in sight
Hearty greetings from A.H.Salmon as I arrived near night
Much talking of old school days we surely had
But thankful to be there and to see him very glad
Imagine if you can a tent 7 X 7 ft nothing high
Except a stove with sod wall around it 3 ft high
To keep the wind from oven and allow the bread to bake
Nothing else there was but many things to make

My first meal consisted of bacon then seen
As rattlesnake pork solid fat no streak of lean
And this well strewn with pepper or so it did seem
But when teeth were applied, soil and grit did mean
Blown from the sod wall into the fryingpan
But down it went with appetite for any man
And not a word was said as though meant to be there
So we turned attention to the balance of the fare
Prunes with bread and butter ended up the meal
With tea and sugar which made one better feel
The driver stayed the night sharing our domain
His horses tethered in the grass, there to remain

Next day Salmon went back with driver man
To go to Brandon for wagon plough and Oxen span
Also my boxes. Left alone I had time to think
But work there was a well to dig for drink
Cut a little hay for beds Mark out foundation for a stable
Doing other things about the place as much as I was able
Salmon returned in about a week with wagon Oxen and a plough
My boxes a little lumber provisions and a sow
My baggage was checked on the dock at Point Levis
And was waiting for me at Moosomin this was quite easy

A few days after Salmon got back with oxen and goods
When we were sleeping in our tent one night
A storm of wind and rain came along
And blew down our tent in about a minute we were soaked
Fortunately the pegs on one side held so it did not blow away
But we could do nothing with it the wind was so strong
However we pulled it over ourselves and tucked it under
But it was of little use as the rain came in buckets water all round
Luckily it was really warm and we did not seem to mind it very much
Though we had to lay in water and soaking blankets till morning

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There being nowhere to go for shelter not even trees to get under
 It took all next day to straighten up and dry our blankets
 A beautifully fine day and our things dried up quite quickly
 My boxes which had been outside on account of the size of the tent
 Were waterproof in fact one was tin and used as bath
 By taking out the contents which very often happened even in B.C. If we wa
 If we wanted a good hot bath although the lake was so close
 This storm made us hurry up with the sod stable which we had started
 And intended to live in until we had built the house

The original sod on the prairie was very tough full of grass roots
 You could pull it about quite a lot without breaking it up
 To put up a building you ploughed up a little patch close at hand
 The sods would be 12 or 14 inches wide and 3 or 4 inches thick
 Two posts are put in to hang the door on and form the frame
 Then a double row of sods are placed all round and another row on these
 Now short pieces are put across these to bind them together
 Then three more rows all round and bound together by short pieces
 And repeated to the required height with a slight peak at each end
 On this is placed the ridge pole to carry the roof poles
 The roof is made of poles with a little hay to cover them
 All over this sods are placed and the cracks filled up with soil
 When built the walls are trimmed up with a spade to make them smooth
 If carefully made these are quite warm even in pretty cold weather
 Some used as a dwelling were lined with paper to keep it cleaner
 A window is put in by building it into the wall
 Where logs were scarce these sort of houses were quite common

After this digression I must continue with our doings
 But I had been asked how a sod house was built hence this explanation
 We built a pen for the sow and then started the stable
 Which we soon finished after getting poles from the bush
 In this we lived ourselves until we could build the house
 First we dug the cellar this was my especial job
 A hole 12 X 14 ft 7 ft deep and cribed to keep the walls up
 Next we went to the bush to get the logs for walls
 A sixteen mile trip with Oxen quite an all day job

One day we left our supper all prepared with prairie chicken cleaned
 Ready for the oven and with a pole propped up the door
 For we had no hinges to hang the door upright
 But on nearing home the door did not appear quite straight
 And on inspection found the sow and ten piggies born
 Lying on our beds and our supper gone
 Our beds of course were made upon the ground
 Waiting for a bedstead or some poles were found
 To build some bunks a better place to keep our blankets clean
 Flour sacks ripped up and flour scattered everywhere
 All provisions gone and our blankets in an awful mess
 Our boxes were unopen but she had done her best
 To uproot and scatter every blessed chest
 Hungry and sad with the air rather blue
 But a litter of piggies What could we do?
 We gathered some flour as clean as we could
 And baked up a bannock with pieces of wood

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In the morning Salmon to town for provisions then assayed
 And I the pig pen and door much stronger made
 By fall we had the house complete, and put up hay
 For the Oxen about ten ton or so I'd say
 The logs being green did shrink and plaster fall
 So cold it was all winter that things were frozen all
 Sometimes our blankets stiff as any board
 Could be lifted from the bed until they thawed
 Cold was intense and this we knew
 All winds we got from where ere it blew

From my arrival no wages did I get but only board and cheer
 At this I thought myself in luck for many paid £100.0.0 per year
 And many did not take to farming so were quite a loss
 To those who had taken them when thinking to be boss

It was in October 1883 that I myself to Brandon went
 A Homestead and Preemption to record was my intent
 Half a section near at hand and quite good
 Good land good hay and water but no wood
 Homestead slightly rolling with a slough
 Preemption level as a board but dry I knew
 In spring I pitched a tent and took possession
 And worked most hard I make confession
 Time did not count for me, no eight hour day
 But work as early and as long as light did stay
 When my residence ~~on my own~~ began on mine own land
 I changed work for use of Oxen or a helping hand
 When two were needed to hurry up some jobs
 And whenever I could get the team I hawled logs
 For my house and stable or ploughed some land
 Until I had sufficient logs on hand
 To build my house with neighbours aid
 Not knowing much about it I'm afraid
 In one day my neighbours four put up the walls
 Each took a corner and I answered calls
 For logs or help and things required
 And chinking cracks till fairly tired
 At different times men helped me with my house
 And I helped them when I could be of use

Men came in now but of women none
 Work just work we thought it rather fun
 Anxious to get settled and our place in shape
 To grow the wheat that was to make our stake
 My first year saw me with house and stable
 Wood and ten acres ploughed as much as I was able

The following spring I bought an Oxen team
 And plough as well for I did really mean
 To break more land and surely go ahead
 But luck from start was rather bad instead
 Seed that I and others had hawled some 50 miles and sown
 Failed to come up and our land had to be resown

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Barley was secured and this was done to mine by me unknown
 For my neighbours had a Bee and sowed my land
 Always willing to give a helping hand
 When need or trouble on a neighbour falls
 My trouble was a wound in my right side
 From falling gun I tried to save when on a ride
 That kept me in the town under Doctors care
 For my friend most kindly took me there
 And in the town I stayed a week or two
 To heal the wound and some skin to grow
 For some time I could not do so much
 With hole in my right side on which to put a patch

When a friend is needed he will turn up sure
 Mine was E.A.Hooker straight from Englands shore
 Who tended wound and kept it well cleaned out
 Till it had healed a bit and I could get about
 Then I did more breaking 70 acres by the fall

About this time my father had come out
 To see what I was doing and have a look about
 Fortunately he came when things were fairly good progress steady
 I had a crop of barley house and stable with more breaking ready
 His stay with me seemed so very short
 About two weeks and mostly spent in sport
 With ducks going south and prairie chicken
 We had a good supply to stock the kitchen
 He also built some stairs to sleeping rooms above
 As for carpentering he had a special love

One day he shot a skunk down by the slough
 And went to examine same quite close I knew
 For Mr Skunk had sprayed all the grass around
 Fathers boots and trousers had gathered much of this we found
 For could he enter house until his boots and trousers were removed
 And fire as the best scent remover was very quickly proved

VENABLES

Father also went to visit Mr A. Kenabesquite old friends
 Who lived at Shellmouth. Then on to Fort Pelly where his trail ends
 About his stay at Shellmouth I have forgotten much
 But know it was a very pleasant holiday as such
 And you may remember that Mr Venables did escort me out
 So I myself would have liked to go and have a look about
 Returning then to me he stayed another day or two
 Then started home to England his trip much enjoyed I knew
 I surely missed him and was very lonely for some time
 But got busy hawling wood whilst it was nice and fine

About this time a family arrived and made quite a stir
 Father Mother and two daughters and a son with furniture
 Daughter age sixteen rather good looking I should say
 And I was rather smitten as many Sunday visits were that way

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When a friend is needed he will turn up sure
 Mine was E.A.Hooker straight Englands shore
 Who tended wound and kept it well cleaned out
 Till it had healed a bit and I could get about
 Then I did more breaking 30 acres by the fall

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II

When more settled and by women folk
 There was a custom by many thought a joke
 The Surprise Party and at my place revived
 Not a thing I knew until the visitors arrived
 And brought supplies of cakes and pies to fill us all
 So to leave the house there seemed to be no call
 E.A. Hooker was the attraction so I think
 An expert on the Violin which made a link
 For songs or dancing and listening to good music played
 You'd bring him music or whistle any tune. Then unafraid
 He would play it off with just a look
 As easily as I would read a book

Hooker really came out from England just to farm
 Found little money in it and wished to change without much harm
 So decided to get subscriptions for a paper on commission
 And gave subscribers pictures as a premium on their subscriptions
 There were twenty five of them great and small
 Some quite good and very pretty others colour all
 20% was his commission How the paper did it I could not say
 For to buy the pictures only you would have to pay
 Much more than the subscription or the papers cost
 But he did fairly well upon his rounds and seldom lost
 The paper was quite popular and the pictures swell
 And there were few without them the cost so very low
 When replenishing his stock he stayed with me I know
 Very pleasant company and a help to fill the pot
 With birds and rabbits that he had gone and shot
 But to East Africa he went and I was left alone
 Loss of a nice companion and helper now to moan

Badly needing cash to pay my mounting bill
 I took a load of barley to the town and mill
 At the elevator no barley did they want
 Nor could I get an offer anywhere I went
 Though I offered it at ten cents a bushel
 Rather than take it back still unsold
 But no offer could I get not even at the store
 So had to take it home and store it as before
 This was a severe disappointment to me
 As I had calculated to get some winter stores
 In the spring again I took it to the town
 And sold it easily for 50 cents right down
 Also more loads I took and sold for seed
 A better price than wheat when sold for feed
 All this winter I hawled fence rails logs and wood
 An eight mile trip to the bush when e'er I could

An English lad just out soon found his way about
 He traded his jack knife for a dog both willing
 Dog turned out to be good at coyote killing
 And he soon traded dog for a cow
 Cow soon delivered up a calf and now
 He traded for two steers a little lean
 Which he soon trained and had an oxen team
 No cash was paid in any deal
 So he had no cause to squeal
 A five bob knife for an oxen team A better trade is seldom seen
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In the spring of 1886 I sowed 40 acres down to wheat
 And broke 20 more before too much heat (there was)
 On July the twelfth my crop was looking very good and fine
 When along came a hail storm and left there not a sign
 Stones as large as wallnuts and some much larger still
 Left the field like ploughed land no wheat a sack to fill
 Broke the windows in the shack and barked the little trees
 It was very disappointing as my purse had had a squeeze

After the hail storm I went to my store in town
 To explain and get a few necessities
 But to crown the disaster of the storm I was politely asked
 To pay my bill of 30 dollars now a little past
 As it was the custom at that time
 To pay but once a year quite fine
 For those who had no cash until
 They sold their wheat to pay their bill
 Now this was quite a shock to me
 For without thought I did not think that he
 Would be unable to finance me for another year
 Though being a little loath to leave the farm I fear
 I got a job to carry on and by getting cash
 Paid my bill and had a little more
 To help me through the winter as before
 My meals consisted of a much the same menu
 No butter or milk little sugar the strictest economy I knew

When starting on this job four Canadian boys
 Thought to add fun to their other joys
 Two boys on the stack another with each team
 And I was in the field pitching sheaves
 One would take his lead to the stack and hurry back
 So that I would have to hurry up or fail to fill the other rack
 In time to keep them supplied with sheaves upon the stack
 But I was hard and very fit not a word I said
 Pretended not to notice anything but sheaves were quickly fed
 Two or three together placed upon the lead
 So that he would have no kick nor loose sheaves upon the road
 And soon I get well ahead and sat upon a stool
 So asked the teams to hurry up or I'd be getting cold
 And they found that I was not a green young mutt
 But friends we were and worked together fine
 Complimented by the boss for making such good time

Two young fellows farming thought to kill a pig
 Fine and fat in good condition and really rather big
 So information they did seek as to how the job was done
 And thinking it quite easy not expecting so much fun
 Boiling water was procured and put into a tub
 They killed the pig and to the tub did lug
 Then in the boiling water did souce and souce it well
 Till nearly boiled or so it seemed but you could hardly tell
 Then at the scraping they did start but lo
 Scrape and scrape and scrape as hard as they could go
 No bristles would come off nor could they make a shew
 So they took to razors but this was very slow

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 One would take his load to the stack and hurry back
 So that I would have to hurry up or fail to fill the other rack
 In time to keep them supplied with sheaves upon the stack
 But I was hard and very fit not a word I said
 Pretended not to notice anything but sheaves were quickly fed
 Two or three together placed upon the lead
 So that he would have no kick nor loose sheaves upon the road
 And soon I get well ahead and sat upon a stool
 So asked the teams to hurry up or I'd be getting cold
 And they found that I was not a green young mutt
 But friends we were and worked together fine
 Complimented by the boss for making such good time

Two young fellows farming thought to kill a pig
 Fine and fat in good condition and really rather big
 So information they did seek as to how the job was done
 And thinking it quite easy not expecting so much fun
 Boiling water was procured and put into a tub
 They killed the pig and I the tub did lug
 Then In the boiling water did souce and souce it well
 Till nearly boiled or so it seemed but you could hardly tell
 Then at the scraping they did start but lo
 Scrape and scrape and scrape as hard as they could go
 No bristles would come off nor could they make a show
 So they took to razors but this was very slow

And now they hung it up to singe it clean
 But black they made it and a sight when seen
 So now they did decide ~~## ##~~ the only thing to do
 Was to skin it and make it look like new
 And this they tried to do but you may well imagine
 What it was like and with their ambition lagging
 Gave up the job and decide to salt it down
 This they did but some they sold the price being rather low

After the hail again I sowed my wheat quite nice
 And all men said that it would never happen twice
 To hail the same place so hope for a good crop was strong
 I sowed 50 acres to wheat and 10 to oats quite wrong
 For in July again it hailed but not so bad
 Though it left me nothing but the straw
 So again I had to leave the farm to get of cash some more

Then disking up the land and getting ready for the spring
 I got a job for the winter hawling wheat and doing anything
 Working in the bush located all around
 A nice place to be working so I found
 Few storms and no drifting snow About the place in drifts to blow
 But fine bright days though really very cold
 Not felt so much nor noticed yue'll be told
 In spring again I sowed my land the Government provideing seed
 Charging fer it in the fall for all we need
 This time I had a crop and paid my bills and dues
 Part on binder newer rake and things I use
 I thought I really had a start for now
 I could stay at home and buy a sow
 With some feed to give it and some bacon raised
 A better living I was quite amazed
 For I had had a slim slim time
 To keep on going and things in line

One day a man came to my place and stayed to lunch
 As I had far to go to get the water he said he had a hunch
 That he could find some drink much closer in
 So we aranged that if I get water within 20 fthe would \$5.00 win
 But if I dug and no water found he would give me dollars five
 So after lunch he took a willow twig shaped like Y
 Grasped the prongs in his two hands leaving the other end straight out
 He then walked up and down across the place and all about
 When at a certain place the twig turned down at quite a pace
 It had also turned a little at another place
 But here he put in a stake and said my \$5.00 goes on that
 I tried the wand myself but it remained quite flat
 Being on the top of a little rise I was very skeptical I knew
 Nevertheless I dug as far as I could throw
 Then got a neighbours aid to raise the soil
 When down to 16 feet water in plenty seemed to beil
 And rose to 12 ft and stayed at that
 So to the man that got it I take off my hat

And now they hung it up to singe it clean
 But black they made it and a sight when seen
 So now they did decide the only thing to do
 Was to skin it and make it look like new
 And this they tried to do but you may well imagine
 What it was like and with their ambition lagging
 Gave up the job and decide to salt it down
 This they did but some they sold the price being rather low

After the hail again I sewed my wheat quite nice
 And all men said that it would never happen twice
 To hail the same place so hope for a good crop was strong
 I sewed 60 acres to wheat and 10 to oats quite wrong
 For in July again it hailed but not so bad
 Though it left me nothing but the straw
 So again I had to leave the farm to get of cash some more

Then disking up the land and getting ready for the spring
 I got a job for the winter hawling wheat and doing anything
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For that was well number seventhat I had dug about the place
 Ranging from 12 to 52 feet in debth without a good supply of water
 Water sometimes lasting a month or two seldom long
 But this one lasted all the year always strong
 A very useful acquisition to the place and good supply
 For neighbours threshing when need for extra water was the cry

And now I traded my Oxen for a team of horses
 I had had no intention of changing my forces
 But one day when I arrived in town and put my team in the stable
 I heard some one say I will trade that D----- team for yoke of Oxen
 It took me over two hours to get up the Pipestone Hill
 I went over and had a look at the horses a nice looking team
 Much too fat not done much work and baulkey I supposed
 But thought that I would take a chance so offered my team
 Which he accepted at once as they were young and pretty good
 So when I started home I hitched up his horses
 But took the precaution to nail two pieces of scantling on the
 On the back of the wagense that the horses could not back up
 On arriving at the Pipestone sure enough a little way up the hill
 They stopped and tried to back up, but no luck this time
 I did not bother them just kept them to the middle of the road
 And after a bit they decided to go on up stoping just once more
 But left alone went on up without any further trouble
 Seldom any trouble with them but later I traded one for a mare

This spring I sowed 80 acres to wheat
 And had the place cleaned up and looking neat
 But by August all I had was acres five or six
 A corner saved the rest not worth putting into ricks
 Hail had broken and destroyed the stalk
 So had to leave the farm again and take another walk

Decided now the first chance that I got
 To try somewhere else and leave the lot
 So prepared my land for another try
 And went to a farm to feed and water stock But why?
 Because three boys were kept who paid to learn
 When it was cold around the stove they'd sit and earn
 A lecture from the boss but they laid down the law
 No work for them when paying when I was being paid
 To do the work that the sheep and cattle made
 Hawing hay, feed, water and clean out the stock
 Cuting weed, looking after things and feed the chicken flock
 The boys would help if it was fairly warm
 Not a bit if it was cold, but sit in deers away from harm
 Certainly it was cold but I was very careful
 To keep all things dry and being fairly cheerful
 Kept things going till the spring then home I went
 To sow another crop with which I meant
 To change my quarters and have another try
 And make a liveing for myself or know the reason why
 I could not live a life of independence
 When I tried so hard by work and did all I knew

For that was well number seven that I had dug about the place
 Ranging from 12 to 52 feet in debth without a good supply of water
 Water sometimes lasting a month or two seldom long
 But this one lasted all the year always strong
 A very useful acquisition to the place and good supply
 For neighbours threshing when need for extra water was the cry

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 Cuting weed, looking after things and feed the chicken flock
 The boys would help if it was fairly warm
 Not a bit if it was cold but sit indoors away from harm
 Certainly it was cold but I was very careful
 To keep all things dry and being fairly cheerful
 Kept things going till the spring then home I went
 To sow another crop with which I meant
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 When I tried so hard by work and did all I knew

To make a home and have an income fair
That would keep a man and perhaps another
This crop was medium but paid my debts and passage fare
To Vancouver on the Pacific coast away from frost

But before I relate my arrival at the Pacific Coast
Not to describe some small events might be a pity
So here are some but skip them if you like to page 22

In 1884 I saw Grey Geese in thousands round a lake
I'd say in millions but that might be a mistake
Although the scene was too wonderful to be believed
They only stayed two days a visit very brief
For interesting they surely were to see
About a ten acre patch completely covered
With hardly room to clean or scratch about
And round about there were some who seemed to watch
Not so very nervous either for I had a splendid view
But was watched and they really saw me this I knew
For they began to talk and walk about
But I did not molest them in any way nor alarm them

To test the cold we used to take a bucket of water
Raise it to the shoulder and pour it out
If no water reached the ground but all was ice
It would be about 30 below Zero a sure test
For not a drop of water reached the ground if that cold

One Sunday morning I was sitting in my house reading
When I saw smoke where I thought it should not have been
At a neighbour's house about a mile or so away
As we had been threshing there the day before
I thought that there might be trouble so I ran
Getting near I saw fire burning pretty strongly
The stable had been covered with the straw to keep it warm
And a shed used to cover his separator was very near
This was on fire not ten feet from the other straw
And a little straw joining up the two piles
I did a good deal of shouting but no one round
And I could find no water except pig swill
In this I dipped a sack and put it over my head
Then went and cleared the straw away from the shed
By running back and forth as it was too hot to step
Even this was pretty hot and I scorched my pants back and front
At last another man turned up and then some more
We kept the fire from spreading but the shed and implements went
Fortunately the separator was away so was not lost
The owners knew nothing about it till their return at night
They might easily have lost the lot stable granary and crop
There was no wind at all or results might have been different

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The hailstorms came in streaks and were quite local
Roughly two or three miles wide and 20 or 30 ~~###~~ long
On the open prairie we could trace the course
And wonder will it come our way and be another loss

My neighbour on the same section as myself sometimes missed the hail
One day his house was completely hidden from us by rain a deluge
And I was putting up hay not getting a drop all day
When the storm was over and seeing us still putting up hay
He came over to call us feels for putting up hay so wet
Imagine his surprise when he found that we were quite dry
But he took a fork and helped us for the rest of the day
His crop was flat not hailed but very hard to cut
Had to be done by hand impossible with the binder except in small spots

It was proverbial the honesty of the pioneer
You left your home and all possessions without fear
For people would enter and get a meal for themselves
If you were not there to get it for them
Nothing would be taken or disturbed upon the shelves
Even kindling for the stove would be left as found
As one always left a small bunch of kindling lying round
To light up quickly to boil the kettle on our return
Sometimes they would stay the night and wait around
Hoping to see you on your return but a note you always found
Thanking you for hospitality and inviting your return call
Though you may never have seen him or he you
At this date (1940) it is really hard to believe
That I could leave my house and all contents
Without a lock of any sort and things about
Return in four or five months and find nothing gone
But such was the case I never lost a thing
And anything was useful to those just starting in
This applies to B.C. as well or rather did
As I left all my possessions on my trips to England and lost nothing
Miners could leave their packs and blankets beside the trail
With the positive assurance that they would be there on their return

When I had nearly finished my well at the house 52 ft deep
Two young fellows were helping to pull up the dirt
With a windlass and box once when they had got the box to the top
They began to argue as to who should put the board under the box
To slide it off on and between them let the windlass go
And the box came down the well but fortunately a corner hit the edge
Turning it on its edge so that it just missed me
Or I might have been rather badly hurt
But I only get a good shower of mud and dirt no damage done
I certainly flattened myself against the wall of the well
But the boys were pretty badly scared thinking that I would be hurt
Another time at the same well a Mr Jasper was helping me to clean it out
We had just finished and he was pulling me out
I was standing on the handle of the bucket
When near the top he looked down and asked me how I was getting along
I said all right but when he started up again the handle broke
And I slid down as far as the knot on the rope but hung on
In his hurry to get me out he nearly wound my hands over the windlass

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He was a pretty scared man thinking that I had gone with the bucket
My hands were very sore but I had to go down for the bucket
He was very loath to let me go but I made a loop in the rope
And sat in it quite comfortably to get the bucket
But would have been pretty badly bruised up if I had fallen down

One year there was a tremendous lot of frozen wheat in the country
I did not have any myself as mine had been hauled out
But all through the country they get pigs to eat it up
As there was no sale for the wheat too badly frozen
The following fall everyone had pigs for sale
Loads and loads were hauled into Moosomin and stacked up everywhere
No sale at all nominal price 2 cents per lb but no demand
I heard of some being given away but not my luck to get any
I knew that Moosomin was simply loaded up with pigs
What happened to them eventually I do not remember

Describing the site of a cyclone which had passed before our time
The trees on a strip half a mile wide had been snapped off
About 5 or 6 ft from the ground and lay in all directions
Criss cross not all in one direction but well mixed up
Very few were up rooted and being well off the ground
It was splendid wood and here we got our supply for a few years
But a fire went through and burnt it all up
Two years after it was a mass of strawberry plants
And the whole settlement got buckets of strawberries
The largest and best that I have ever seen wild
Picked my bucket after going 8 miles and cutting a load of poles
So you may know that they were very plentiful although home late
We wondered how they got there in such numbers so quickly
And there was very little grass among the roots all burnt out

In 1886 I was given a puppy and a kitten each about a month old
They occupied the same box and became the closest friends
The kitten black named nick and the puppy black with a white collar
And very curly hair quite nice looking and called Sambo
Half retriever half collie but not looking much like either
Developed an extraordinary gift for scent and grit
A real companion to myself and most useful I taught him many tricks
Which I am rather reluctant to relate being hard to believe
By those who do not know what a dog is capable of under tuition
The first thing I taught him was to bring up his plate for feed
This took considerable time and a good deal of patience
In fact was much the hardest of all tricks to teach him
But after that he seemed to learn quite easily and well
Quite keen to do his tricks when asked and always obedient
Bringing his plate got him many a good meal
On one occasion at an Hotel in Wapella I was having a meal
With the proprietor whom I knew well when Samy appeared in the diningroom
Carrying a large baking pan much to the amusement of the proprietor
And his wife I said that he was asking for his dinner
So their little girl took him out and nearly filled up the pan
Much more than he could eat He got many feeds especially with children

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March 13-12
527 PM

When told he would bring in the wood and put it by the stove
 Asked for an egg he would go out and get one from the stable
 Without breaking it I always had to be sure that there was one out there
 He would catch any chicken pointed at without hurting it in any way
 Strangely enough they never seemed to struggle after he had caught them
 Which I never understood as he held them very gently
 If I had left my coat in the field after ploughing he would get it
 At first quite a job as he kept treading on it
 But I noticed that he soon found out that by holding it to one side
 He could walk along without any trouble seemingly very proudly
 It was very interesting to watch him find this out
 He would go back and pick up anything dropped off my lead if not too big
 Catch and hold a pig, fetch in the oxen, go half a mile for the mail
 This was tied to his collar, take anything to the ploughing field
 To whoever happened to be there in fact a good messenger
 And his parlour tricks were many, To speak that was bark when asked
 Roll over, Jump over broom stick when held up, Jump through arms
 Jump through arms and kiss you on the way, Kiss anyone pointed at
 Jump over my back when stooping like leap frog
 Catch meat or bread off his nose when told, fetch slippers or boots
 Bring the cat or take food to her, and many other little things
 In fact he was very sensible and could have given a good performance
 I had just taught him to say yes and no
 This was by making him shake his head the same as I did mine
 Up and down for yes and from side to side for no
 When I asked a question and shook my head he would do the same
 It was quite amusing sometimes to watch peoples faces
 Watching the dog and not noticing me they seemed to think that the
 That the dog was really answering the questions, and very much surprised
 One morning he was missing and although I hunted everywhere
 And made enquiry I could not find him, I knew he would not stay away
 But a man from Cannington had offered me \$50.00 for him a little before
 And I'm afraid I was a little suspicious unjustly for he was not there
 Later I heard that he had been shot by a man up north miles away
 He had passed by my place with a lady dog and samy had followed up at night
 Not knowing where he came from and unable to get him away shot him
 A real loss to myself as he was a real friend and companion
 Besides a help and splendid sporting dog very hard to beat
 In the training I had to remember the exact words I used
 For what I wanted him to do and use exactly the same each time
 But it was astonishing what he did learn and remember
 On my trips to the bush I had lots of time to teach him
 But he was very quick to learn and very sensible

I had a tame badger that my dog had caught when it was very young
 And they grew very friendly, the badger as tame as the dog
 I kept him in a box for a time then on a chain
 Later I let him loose to run round as he liked
 When hungry he used to try to climb up on my lap
 I used to feed him mostly on gophers but he caught many himself
 But he would eat nearly anything not at all hard to feed
 On leaving the place I had to leave him loose
 When I returned the first time he was still round
 But the next time I went away I did not see him again
 Although my neighbours saw him several times as I put a collar on him
 And he was very tame and would not run away like the others would

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 This was tied to his collar, take anything to the ploughing field
 To whoever happened to be there in fact a good messenger
 And his parlour tricks were many, To speak that was bark when asked
 Roll over, Jump over broom stick when held up, Jump through arms
 Jump through arms and kiss you on the way, Kiss anyone pointed at
 Jump over my back when stooping like leap frog
 Catch meat or bread off his nose when told, fetch slippers or boots
 Bring the cat or take food to her, and many other little things
 In fact he was very sensible and could have given a good performance
 I had just taught him to say yes and no
 This was by making him shake his head the same as I did mine
 Up and down for yes and from side to side for no
 When I asked a question and shook my head he would do the same
 It was quite amusing sometimes to watch peoples faces
 Watching the dog and not noticing me they seemed to think that the
 That the dog was really answering the questions, and very much surprised
 One morning he was missing and although I hunted everywhere
 And made enquiry I could not find him, I knew he would not stay away
 But a man from Cannington had offered me \$50.00 for him a little before
 And I'm afraid I was a little suspicious unjustly for he was not there
 Later I heard that he had been shot by a man up north miles away
 He had passed by my place with a lady dog and Samy had followed up at night
 Not knowing where he came from and unable to get him away shot him
 A real loss to myself as he was a real friend and companion
 Besides a help and splendid sporting dog very hard to beat
 In the training I had to remember the exact words I used
 For what I wanted him to do and use exactly the same each time
 But it was astonishing what he did learn and remember
 On my trips to the bush I had lots of time to teach him
 But he was very quick to learn and very sensible

I had a tame badger that my dog had caught when it very young
 And they grew very friendly, the badger as tame as the dog
 I kept him in a box for a time then on a chain
 Later I let him loose to run round as he liked
 When hungry he used to try to climb up on my lap
 I used to feed him mostly on gophers but he caught many himself
 But he would eat nearly anything not at all hard to feed
 On leaving the place I had to leave him loose
 When I returned the first time he was still round
 But the next time I went away I did not see him again
 Although my neighbours saw him several times as I put a collar on him
 And he was very tame and would not run away like the others would

I also had a crane which my dog found when quite small
He became very tame and followed me behind the plough most of the day
He had a box nailed on the side of the house to sleep in
Eventually he broke his back by falling into the cellar
I had a trap door in the floor and a ladder down
This was open and as he backed up he fell down
Striking his back on the ladder and was quite paralised
So I had to kill him much to my sorrow and the dog seemed to miss him to
As he used to go and look up at the box to see if he was there
And seemed quite lest as they often used to play about together
To look at them you would think that the dog was going to kill the crane
But he was very gentle really and did not hurt him at all
The crane was very smart with his feet and wings

The first few years geese ducks cranes and chicken were very plentiful
But they soon got less and did not breed round our way so much
I think that prairie fires destroyed very many chicken
As they would hide in the scrubby wharf willow bushes
And wait till too late before flying out getting singed then burnt
Fire runs very fast through the grass especially with a wind
A horse could not keep ahead of it, that is the point of it
And it used to be very destructive destroying stacks houses and stables
Everyone used to plough out good fire guards
But hay would spread over these sometimes so they had to be watched

There were plenty of Hares or Jack Rabbits
Which we used to run with greyhounds in the fall
And shoot round the straw stacks in the winter on moonlight nights
They would go along like a rubber ball 12 ft at a bound
And were getting more plentiful all the time

I went to a neighbours one day for a visit two others were there already
So that there were four of us sitting round in the shakktw on the bed
When one of them took a revolver from the wall and asked if it was loaded
Being told that it was not he pointed it at a dog lying on the floor
And pulled the trigger saying that he had hit it between the eyes
Then he pointed it at a bottle and said that he would knock the cork out
Now he took it in both hands to watch the mechanism and pulled the trige
There was a loud report the bullet going through the ceiling
Missing his head by an inch or so as he felt it pass
A pretty scared boy, and I must say none of us felt too comfortable
It might have been so very much more harmful
On inspection we found that there was still another cartridge in it
The owner said that he had no idea whatever that it was loaded
But it is always the unloaded gun that goes off and does the damage
My advice is always unload your gun before entering the house
Make it a definite rule dont do it sometimes do it always

Another time when working away from home I saw a coyote near the house
And ran in to tell the boss he had already seen it from the window
And was hurrying out with his rifle under his arm
As we met in the doorway his rifle went off the bullet so near my foot
That I thought that it had hit my boot or foot but no damage done
We found that it was the lapel of his pocket that had caught the trigger
Of his rifle as he carried it under his arm which set it off
Needless to say the coyote got away without a dose of lead
But it shows how careful one needs to be with a gun always

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In my own case I was rideing along in the oxe wagon
 With the gun between my knees the butt resting on the bottom of the box
 But there was a hole in the box and the buttslipped through
 In pulling it up the trigger saught on the broken edge of the box
 And went off hitting me in the side, not very comfortable
 But managed to get to a farm house and the Doctor came next day
 Having been fetched by my friend then I was taken to town
 This was not at all a pleasant trip as the shot were still in my side
 And every jolt on the rough prairie was quite a shock
 I had been expecting to shoot chicken but shot another bird instead

I think that there is a little misconseption of the word blizard
 My idea of a blizard is a storm when the wind seems to blow in circles
 The air is full of snow and visibility is very poor indeed
 Whichever way you turn the wind is in your faceblowing snow
 I think anyone would be lost without something to guide them
 Such as a good road and it would have to be very good
 Or a fence to follow and you would have to be pretty close to that
 To be able to follow it at all times
 A storm often called a blizard may be very unpleasant
 And visibility very bad but the wind blows in one direction only
 So that if you know the direction from which it is comeing
 When you start out you always know in what direction you are going
 And although you may miss your object you have a chance to return
 Towards the place you are making for
 Not so in a blizard you are absolutely lost without a compass (turn
 For you can see nothing but snow a few feet from you whichever way you

Oxen can always find home if given a chance day or night
 At least I never heard of them geting lost, horses and mules not so good
 In one case man and mules were frozen to death a Mr Rushbrook
 Not very far from Cannington Manor traveling from Pipestone Creek
 Another case with mules a woman was frozen to death ~~### ## (later~~
 And the man lost both his feet mules found at a hay stack three days
 This man was driving a sulky plough the following spring without feet
 There were several cases of freezing to death whilst I was there

In one case three men left Moosomin in a bad storm
 Two were rideing on the seat the other laying on hay in box of sleigh
 On arrival at the Pipestone they called at a house to warm up
 The two on the seat jumped off and ran in expeeting the other to follow
 But as he did not they went out to call him
 And found him frozen dead so had to go back to Moosomin again
 I know of several close shaves that people have had of freezing to death
 In one casein our community a lot of young people going to a dance
 When it was very stormy got lost and had to camp in the snow
 Only saving themselves by turning the sleigh box on edge
 And huddling together in the shelter covered by the blankets
 Fortunately they had struck the bush where the wind was not so strong
 Or the results might have been very different some were a little frozen
 And had to be prodded and pulled about to keep from sleeping
 They were all pretty glad to get back home
 But should never have started as the road was too bad to follow

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ARRIVAL AT VANCOUVER CITY

In November 1891 I arrived in Vancouver City on the Pacific Coast
 After a very interesting trip through the mountains
 Where the snow was already deep and still falling in places
 At Field it seemed to be seven or eight feet deep already
 As we got towards the coast it was raining everything very green
 A welcome sight after the prairie where it was all snow
 Arrived in Vancouver about 10.30 a m quite a nice day
 But poor I was without much cash of which to boast
 Five cents exactly was my supply so work I wanted
 On the platform I met a man who offered me a job
 At sawing lumber and driveing nails at 16¢ per hour
 Though I would have to pay \$5.00 Union Dues
 But could be taken from my wages this I knew
 However I decided to see some friends at Seymour Creek first
 Before I decided what I would do about the job
 So to Seymour Creek I went and borrowed cash to pay my boatman \$1.25
 Here I was treated very well given good advice and temporary job
 Taking milk to Vancouver every day of the week
 Up at 5 a m help to milk 22 to 25 cows strain milk into cans
 Load it into a boat and row it across to Hastings
 Hitch up a light democrat load up and drive to the Hotel Vancouver
 Deliver 30 to 35 gallons of milk and two of cream
 Then distribute to a few private customers and return
 On return home I had to wash the cans and perhaps get the cows in
 But as a rule they were good and came in themselves being fed grains
 These we get from Vancouver Breweries with a launch and small scow
 We started milking at 5 p m then fed and bedded down for the night
 This for \$15.00 per month working every day of the week

The trip to Hastings by boat was sometimes quite interesting
 If there was a bad tide rip your boat was tossed about in all directions
 And needed considerable care to keep from swamping
 Sometimes hard work against the wind but quite exciting
 On two occasions my cream was butter by the time I got across
 And in Vancouver I had a job to replace it with some more cream
 However I managed to sell the butter and buttermilk for the price of cream
 Also when foggy one had to remember tide and allow for drift
 Once I took Mr Williams a surveyor across to Hastings
 When we could scarcely see the end of the boat, absolutely calm
 And on landing struck the wharf exactly
 He said how on earth did you do that without a compass
 I said that I watched the wake of the boat and allowed for tide
 Probably a lucky fluke but I had been over a good many times
 In all sorts of weather storm and fog so was well posted
 One thing to remember is that when the tide is going out
 The water at the sides of the stream are flowing in
 Which is a considerable help in getting about
 To illustrate this. One Sunday when returning home
 Met two young fellows coming out from Vancouver in a light skiff
 Mine was a flat bottom fairly heavy boat, but as I got to them
 They challenged me to a race, and noticing that they were in the tide
 I began to chaff them about my boat being so much heavier
 And they were two to one but all the time getting closer
 To keep them in the tide then said that I would have a try
 Pretending to row hard but really going easily as the water was still

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 Pretending to row hard but really going easily as the water was with me

Whilst they were bucking a strong tide at the Narrows
They did their best to get ahead but were not very good anyway at the oars
So after going a little way said that I would have to hurry up
And began to row and crossed their bow well ahead of them
And turned up the creek much to their surprise I think
On leaving I shouted to them to keep out of the current going up
And in the middle going back it would be much easier
Probably they soon found out the difference I did not see them again

In the spring I got a job as cook with a survey party
Working up Seymour Creek and Capilano Creek with C Dawson's party
This was a very easy job only seven men to cook for besides myself
And they were away all day so had to put up lunches for them
Also have a good big fire for them at night as they were always wet
So had to dry up their clothes for the next days work
My kitchen utensils consisted of a reflector billy teapot & fryingpan
Bread pan plates cups knives and forks with a tent for myself
My wages were \$2.00 per day all found to me a goodly sum
But it did not last long enough as they finished the job
And I had to go back to the milk ranch again my original job

It was at Capilano Creek that I met Indian Chief Capilano
A very interesting man who described the early days of Vancouver
And Indian laws and legends I was very interested by him
He came to my tent most every day, but soon I found
That he wanted a whiteman for his son in law and had picked on me
To marry his daughter but I had not seen her. What about her choice?
I told him that I did not want to marry yet as I had no money
He said that he had plenty no need for more & was very persistent
However I managed to put him off till we moved the camp
Nor did I see him again but found out that he did have the cash
And rumour said a quarter of a million. What a chance?
I have wondered since how he got along Did he get his son in law?

Another incident perhaps interesting to some
Indian Chief George of the Seymour Creek band of Indians
Called as we were sitting round the fire talking one evening
He was a tall well built very husky Indian with big bare feet
Standing by the fireside talking and after some discussion
Wishing to explain his position as well as he could
He said Me all same as Queen Victoria she rule her people I rule mine
Me King George some day I go see Queen Victoria
This he did in 1906 when B.C. Chiefs went to England on a deputation
To try and get some of their grievences redressed

Soon after getting back to the milk ranch I got Rheumatic Fever
And had to go to Hospital. Here they treated me most kindly
Both Doctor and nurses nor would they charge me anything for my stay
I think that Dr Johnston had something to do with this
And he also advised me to go to the Upper Country
Or I would soon be crippled up beyond repair, So I left soon after
Whilst I was convalescing I stayed with Mr & Mrs Buxton
Who were very kind to me, Mrs Buxton being an old Millbrook friend

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Before I leave Vancouver I here record that I was among the last
 To see the old S.S. Beaver on the rocks at Prospect Point
 This was the first steamer to round the Horn and reach Vancouver in 1855
 She was wrecked in 1888 and was washed off into deep water after I saw her
 I still have a photograph of her on the rocks To some quite interesting
 Many pieces of wood and copper was taken off her as souvenirs
 But many souvenirs were made that never saw the boat

In October 1892 I arrived in Vernon and stayed at the Coldstream Hotel
 Proprietor H.G. Muller a pleasant and obliging man most helpful
 After trying for a job in several places I started with Mr Piercy
 On a cottage near the Hotel at 16 cents per hour driving nails
 Then after doing a little hunting grouse and deer
 I undertook to build a house on a Coldstream Lot for N. Spicer
 Lived on the lot in a tent for about ten days under a foot of snow
 When the lumber arrived built a kitchen later to be added to the house
 In this we lived whilst building the house of four small rooms
 This was an exceptionally cold winter for this part, so they said
 And thousands of cattle died for want of food and were lying all round
 I counted 38 in one small circle lying head to tail all dead
 The country was full of dead cattle and no hay to be got anywhere
 Numbers were shot to end their misery, a heavy loss to the ranchers

When the house was finished I went to J.L. Webster's to cut rails
 And to haul them from the Coldstream Ranch to fence his place with
 Then ploughed his place to get it in shape for nursery stock
 Of which he planted quite a lot later sold to the fruit growers
 Many of these he grafted himself local scions on imported stock

On May 24th 1893 J.L. Webster took myself and boat that I had built
 To Okanagan Landing where the S.S. Aberdeen was to be launched
 We launched my boat then saw the S.S. Aberdeen slide in
 The first sideways launch that I had ever seen. Cpt Shorts was there
 With decided opinions that the C.P.R. ought to have put up the drinks
 All round on such an auspicious occasion a holiday as well
 But my own opinion was that the Cpt would have been better
 Without some that he had already consumed, However opinions differ

At this time the S.S. Penticton went up and down the lake
 Down one day up the next Cpt W. Riley was the skipper
 Captain Forester was the first Cpt on the S.S. Aberdeen
 I remember asking him if he would tow my boat down the lake
 I thought he was going to eat me he was so mad or seemed to be
 However he put it on board and brought it to the ranch for \$1.00
 This was because it was pretty rough and I wanted to get home

After the launching I started down the lake on the west side
 The first night I camped on the beach at Whitemans Creek
 A beautiful starlight night with a blanket to cover me and sky as shelter
 Next day I sailed slowly down the lake stopping at many places
 Saw men at Mordens camp now Ewings Landing and Killiney
 Then landed at Shorts Point now Fintry and had a good look round
 Price of this was \$1000.00 too much for me I had to get land free
 Not being blessed with capital to get a start at farming
 Went on down the lake as far as Trout Creek with many stops
 Then crossed to the east side of the lake as I heard that T. Ellis owned
 (all Penticton)

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 Many of these he grafted himself local scions on imported stock

On May 24th 1893 J.L. Webster took myself and boat that I had built
 To Okanagan Landing where the S.S. Aberdeen was to be launched
 We launched my boat then saw the S.S. Aberdeen slide in
 The first sideways launch that I had ever seen. Cpt Shorts was there
 With decided opinions that the C.P.R. ought to have put up the drinks
 All round on such an auspicious occasion a holiday as well
 But my own opinion was that the Cpt would have been better
 Without some that he had already consumed, However opinions differ

At this time the S.S. Penticton went up and down the lake
 Down one day up the next Cpt W. Riley was the skipper
 Captain Forester was the first Cpt on the S.S. Aberdeen
 I remember asking him if he would tow my boat down the lake
 I thought he was going to eat me he was so mad or seemed to be
 However he put it on board and brought it to the ranch for \$1.00
 This was because it was pretty rough and I wanted to get home

After the launching I started down the lake on the west side
 The first night I camped on the beach at Whitemans Creek
 A beautiful starlight night with a blanket to cover me and sky as shelter
 Next day I sailed slowly down the lake stopping at many places
 Saw men at Mordens camp now Ewings Landing and Killiney
 Then landed at Shorts Point now Fintry and had a good look round
 Price of this was \$1000.00 too much for me I had to get land free
 Not being blessed with capital to get a start at farming
 Went on down the lake as far as Trout Creek with many stops
 Then crossed to the east side of the lake as I heard that T. Ellis owned
 all Penticton

Stayed the night at Deep Creek then up past Kelowna a few miles
Then having a good wind steered straight for my own place
A place I had in view on my way down but I wanted water
So had a good look round but only found a spring and not very large
I am afraid my choice of land was rather sentimental
A very pretty site a point of land with a small bay facing south
A larger and more extended bay facing north trees fringed the shores
Pine large pine and firs were scattered round a pleasant looking place
And on the point a nice large rock on which to fish and view the lake
A pleasant place to live but not much land to make it pay
Many logs for lumber and others for cord wood there were to cut
I entered for my land at Vernon and began to build my shack
About this time T.F. Valentine came out from the prairie
He had helped me harvest my last crop there and I had left him the farm
If he cared to carry on and take a chance He thought that he would try
But he did not make much out of his two crops so decided to try B.C.

Before I continue I must tell you that at my first breakfast on the beach
A doe and very small fawn came and looked at me standing about 30ft off
And they looked very nice not at all scared about me
There were always plenty of deer about sometimes very destructive
As they were very fond of carrots lettuce and garden stuff
Even scratching up potatoes with their feet if they once found them
They would come and eat the moss and lichen off the trees we cut down
This was in the winter when they were very tame and snow was about

In all we cut nearly 500,000 ft of logs for lumber at 75¢ per 1000ft
And 525 cords of 4ft wood for the S.S. Aberdeen the prices were
1st year \$1.65 then \$1.75 \$1.85 and \$2.10 the 4th year price delivered
And this was the last as they used coal afterwards not needing wood
For the last lot we had to build a shack and wharf at Nahun
Later occupied by H.B. Kennard with his dog Marco
On two occasions when delivering wood the S.S. Aberdeen came on Xmas day
And we were invited to dinner on the boat which was much appreciated
Also a good drink of Scotch from R.C. Haws the engineer
These things were very much appreciated at the time and better realised
When you remember that we were baching with not over many luxuries

When first I took up my land I thought to go where no one else had been
So climbed the mountain at the back but on the top found an Indian trail
And two sweat houses used by the Indians so was not the first there
I found later that it was the old Hudson Bay trail up the lake
And on to Kamloops that was still in use by the Indians
I think that I was a little disappointed at first
But pleased to find something new as I had not seen a sweat house before
I was also glad to get a drink as it was pretty hot climbing up

In 1894 A.F. Venables wrote to me asking for particulars about B.C.
He it was who escorted me out to the North West Territories in 1883
I gave him as full particulars as I could I fancy not very rosy
As far as making money but said that the climate and country were fine
But he decided to come out with all the family consisting of
Mr & Mrs Venables, Vernon, Russel, Peter and Vera Venables
On their arrival and whilst looking round they all stayed with us
Finally buying a lot on the Coldstream property near Vernon
A small incident I remember very clearly
The very first day on their arrival Vernon & Russel went out to fish
With a brand new fish line just out from England

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March 13-12
 Russel was rowing Vernon holding the line as it rolled out
 But it was not tied so that when the end arrived it just went overboard
 And sank the water being very deep just there they never got it again
 I remember the expression on Vernons face Had he not done it himself
 I think that there would have been quite an explosion
 But it certainly was a disapointment, We were all watching the start
 To see them catch their first fish, We lent them our line
 And they did catch some fish but this was not the same
 Soon after they all went up to their Coldstream lot Later I went up
 To build a chimney and add some rooms to the house

In 1896 we bought the S.S. City of Vernon from McAuley and Grant
 This was Cpt Shorts old boat better known as the Mud Hen
 Said to be as often on the bottsmoof the lake as the top
 On March the 4th we spent the day trying to keep the boat from sinking
 The boat was rather like a scow with an engine in it
 And there was a strong north wind blowing and two below zero
 Every wave would wash up on deck and freeze so had to be chopped off
 Which we kept doing till 12 p m when at last the wind went down
 But we decided to build another boat and take the engine out
 And put it into a boat more suitable to our work

At this time Mr LeQuime offered us the upper structure of the S.S. Pentiction
 If we would strip it off and take it away This we gladly did
 Finding it most useful towards building our new boat
 And now we started by getting a good fir log with a crook init for bow
 This we took to the saw mill at Kelowna to get it sawn
 This they did most kindly without charge and a great help to us
 So we had the stem post and keel all in one piece of solid fir
 Then we got vine maple and small fir for the ribs
 After making a model of the boat we wanted scale 1 inch to the foot (only)
 Built a large shed on the shore to build it in this had roof and floor
 With a bench on each side to dress the lumber on
 After cutting the moulds I started on the boat this was my job
 Tools were very scarce especially the right ones
 However it got built and at the launching Christened by Mrs Woods
 The S.S. Wanderer by breaking a champagne bottle on the bow
 After we had consumed the contents during prelininary speeches
 Dimentions of boat were 39ft 6 inches in length and 9ft beam 5 H.P 5 ton
 The launching was most successful she slid in well and no leaks
 Mr & Mrs Woods had put up a very nice tent brought from England
 On our point and stayed the summer hunting and fishing
 Also visiting Coast points returning to England for the winter
 Coming back in the spring and seemed to be enjoying themselves
 In fact I think that they really did being so free to do as they liked

*About this time we bought the Rainbow Ranch from the Barr Brothers
 Who had named it on account of a rainbow apearing over the ranch
 Whenever there was one in the district the ranch had an end of it
 So they called it their trade mark and the name has stuck with the ranch
 This property was Commonage till 1893 When it was put up for sale in lots
 Only a very few lots were sold, But Barr Bros bought ten acres
 Then when it was thrown open for preemption they located round these acres
 Later Ike Eastwood And J Powell located north of the ranch
 These were added to the ranch later by purchase

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In buying the Rainbow Ranch we thought that we were making a big gamble
 As we had no money and the price was \$2000.00 half cash
 We gave notes for \$1000.00 which we hoped to make by cutting logs
 And by sale of wheat the cash \$1000.00 we got by mortgage
 On which we paid 12% interest pretty stiff we thought
 But could not get it anywhere else as it was a dry ranch
 And looked upon as valueless not very encouraging but we got it through
 As we had to take a chance at something wood cutting would not last
 The notes we met as they came due the way we had hoped
 But the mortgage hung on for some time we paying interest only
 Though we changed it to a company at lower rate of interest 8%
 The debt being cleared up by myself in 1902 through sale of a mine
 But wheat growing was much too uncertain, too hot and dry
 The price of \$16.00 per ton did not leave much after paying expenses
 Threshing cost about \$4.00 per ton sacks \$3.40 freight \$2.00
 Binder cord and cutting \$2.25 per acre not leaving much for ploughing
 Seed harrowing horse feed and taxes some years profits did not exist
 As we did not always have good crops in fact not very often

With our boat we did odd jobs whenever we had a chance
 Such as hawling Ore from the Morning Glory Mine to the Stamp Mill
 Located opposite to Okanagan Landing later removed
 The Morning Glory Mine located by the Mordens situated on the point
 Opposite to Whitemans Creek but was not a paying property
 The scow took about 30 tons we got \$25.00 for towing it
 We also took dynamite to Penticton from the landing
 The S.S. Aberdeen not being allowed to carry it with passengers
 Later they made special trips on Sundays so we lost our job
 We towed logs to the Kelowna Saw Mill about 100,000 ft to the raft
 This was mostly a night job as nights were generally calm
 Our speed was 1½ or 2 miles per hour with fair wind a little more

We took the Kelowna Cricket team to Trout Creek now Summerland
 And played up on the Barclay ranch It was here I broke my school daybat
 With score of 45 not so bad for an old friend whose highest was 85 runs
 This was also my highest as I have never made 100 but often hoped to
 I think that we all enjoyed this trip and were given a very good time
 We had lunch in Mr Barclays house with beer to wash it down
 We also took the team to Okanagan Landing then taken to Vernon
 By Joe Harwoods teams, after the game were given supper at the Coldstream
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 Stayed at our place for the night, there were two bunks on the boat
 Four in the shack with plenty of hay on the floor but blankets scarce
 But with coats and weather warm these were not needed very much
 Some slept on the beach myself among them hay mattress sky covering
 A good dip in the morning before breakfast freshened us up
 Fortunately we had plenty of meat bread butter and eggs with fish
 Caught by someone in the morning and with porridge we made out fine
 We then took them back to Kelowna the trip much enjoyed they said
 And gave us many thanks we quite enjoyed it ourselves
 How many are still round I do not know (1940) A.H. Creighton is one
 I think E.M. Caruthers is another but am not quite sure of this
 A good many were killed in the last war or from the effects of it
 Always keen on cricket I never missed a game if I had a chance to play

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I must go back a little to 1893 the first year on the place (Ranch in this year and the following T.F. Valentine went haying at the Pestill In the fall I went to C.O'Keef at the head of the lake for threshing To get cash earning \$2.00 per day paying \$1.00 per day for board When the machine broke down I got a job in the field pitching sheaves At the same wages so did not loose time waiting for repairs Threshing was always a cash job getting our money when through A welcome arrangement as cash was hard to get and rather scarce

When we first got on our place we built a log fence along the road Then down to the lake to form a pasture hoping to get a horse We built this by hand that is pulled the logs round with a rope And using hand spikes as we had no cant hooks or horse pretty hard work. But we finished it up and were ready for a horse when we could get one

In 1893 we undertook to build a boat for S O'Neal to hold about one ton To take feed and oats with logging supplies along the lake to his camps The price agreed was \$40.00 when completed he seemed very pleased with it But I told him that we had not made much out of it As the two pairs of oars rowlocks rudder irons sail rings and lumber Had cost much more than we had figured we had estimated too roughly On coast prices, however he came along one day and gave us another \$5.00 Saying that he was well pleased with it and we were glad of the cash For we had not asked for it or expected more than the \$40.00

A little later we built another boat which we traded to an Indian for horse This horse caused more bad language than I can remember We put hobbles on him but he would only let you near enough to touch him Then we put a long rope on him he would let you stoop to get it But was away in a flash before you could pick it up he watched like a hawk Sometimes we got an Indian to lasso him then he was tethered all the time Till we got through with our job which he did not like nor did we As it was much more work the grass not being very plentiful But I never saw such a horse to pull though small he would never quit Sometimes he would get his singletree over a stump And get down and pull as if he meant to pull it out at all costs Although he could not pull a lot of the logs he could roll them This was done with a rope it took time but we got log in place We had to sell this horse as it did not pay to buy feed for him And took too long to catch him when wanted even oats were no good

We got another horse a very nice one which later went to the Klondyke With the Ashton Bros and got badly staked in a swamp so had to be shot He would follow you like a dog wherever you went no need of a rope Just stand and wait for you any time very good in saddle or harness A fast walker and active horse a good buy and just what we wanted

About this time Frank Stevens said that he had seen a sea serpent Described by him as being about 20 ft long and head like a sheeps Held about 3ft out of the water and to have been seen quite close When fishing near the island opposite to G.M.Gibsons present ranch Frank Stevens was an old French Cook and had been all over the world As cook on ships and often used to stay with us to cook and fish I am afraid we did not believe much in his story and chaffed him a lot But this serpent was seen later by others and called Ogopogo

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Not seen by myself but I believe that there must be some such animal as Frank Stevens in 1896 (died in 1900) and Mr Logie in 1930 Described the animal in exactly the same way almost identical words So I think that there must be something of that sort in the lake

Arthur Jack and Charles Ashton stayed with us for a time Then started for the Klondyke with a Mr Mundt And stayed at Atlin Lake for the winter having quite a trip going in And a very cold winter at the lake but did not make a fortune But were pleased to have gone and had the experiences Which were quite interesting and in some cases exciting Many people of all sorts went by our place on their way to the Klondyke One day 500 horses went by to be sold to the prospectors on the trail I daresay some one made a little out of them as there was a good demand Some asked if they were through the mountains yet We consoled them by saying that they were only just starting

C.E. Woods now bought the place and built a house in which to live When not wandering round, of which they did quite a lot C.E. Woods asked me to go with him to the Glangary Mine in the Lardeau So we went to Revelstoke and then on down to Arowhead by train From there we went to Thompsons Landing by rowboat Where we got a horse and packed him with our blankets and provisions After starting out we arrived at Fish River bridge Here our horse turned round and made for home loosening pack against tree Scattering things along the trail these we had to gather up Leaving them at the side of the road we went back for the horse Returning with him we repacked and started on the trail After crossing Fish River and about three miles further on When crossing a small creek with three logs put across as bridge He fell off onto his back and I had to unpack him to get him up Then repack starting on again driving him on ahead But the trail had been diverted and he took the old trail instead of new Before we could head him off he was in water up to his neck I had to go in to save him from drowning, and our pack But I managed to keep his head up and untie the pack and get him out I tied him to a tree then went back to rescue the packs Let the packs drain a bit then repacked, packs being much heavier Then started on again and hanging my pants on the pack to dry I was certainly cold as I had been up to my neck at times Fortunately a beautiful warm day so I soon warmed up At last we arrived at a cabin on the river bank and stayed the night There was no stove but we built a good big fire on the outside And dried up our blankets and goods as best we could Our bread was not in very good shape but we had to make it do As we had nothing else only counting on two or three days away at most With no chance of getting more until we got back Next morning we took the horse up the river to swim him across He got nearly to the other side when a tree that had fallen in Caught him and he disappeared from sight for a minute or so We thought that we had lost him but he came up a little further down Landing safely on the other side apparently none the worse We crossed in a boat secured to a wire by pulley running across the river Taking packsaddle across with us together with our belongings Caught the horse and tied our packs on and proceeded to the claim

Not seen by myself but I believe that there must be some such animal as Frank Stevens in 1896 (died in 1900) and Mr Logie in 1930 Described the animal in exactly the same way almost identical words So I think that there must be something of that sort in the lake

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C.E. Woods now bought the place and built a house in which to live When not wandering round, of which they did quite a lot C.E. Woods asked me to go with him to the Glangary Mine in the Lardeau So we went to Revelstoke and then on down to Arowhead by train From there we went to Thompsons Landing by rowboat Where we got a horse and packed him with our blankets and provisions After starting out we arrived at Fish River bridge Here our horse turned round and made for home loosening pack against tree Scattering things along the trail these we had to gather up Leaving them at the side of the road we went back for the horse Returning with him we repacked and started on the trail After crossing Fish River and about three miles further on When crossing a small creek with three logs put across as bridge He fell off onto his back and I had to unpack him to get him up Then repack starting on again driving him on ahead But the trail had been diverted and he took the old trail instead of new Before we could head him off he was in water up to his neck I had to go in to save him from drowning, and our pack But I managed to keep his head up and untie the pack and get him out I tied him to a tree then went back to rescue the packs Let the packs drain a bit then repacked packs being much heavier Then started on again and hanging my pants on the pack to dry I was certainly cold as I had been up to my neck at times Fortunately a beautiful warm day so I soon warmed up At last we arrived at a cabin on the river bank and stayed the night There was no stove but we built a good big fire on the outside And dried up our blankets and goods as best we could Our bread was not in very good shape but we had to make it do As we had nothing else only counting on two or three days away at most With no chance of getting more until we got back Next morning we took the horse up the river to swim him across He got nearly to the other side when a tree that had fallen in Caught him and he disappeared from sight for a minute or so We thought that we had lost him but he came up a little further down Landing safely on the other side apparently none the worse We crossed in a boat secured to a wire by pulley running across the river Taking packsaddle across with us together with our belongings Caught the horse and tied our packs on and proceeded to the claim

Arriveing before noon we had a good look round, staying the night
Thousands of dollars had been sent out from England to develop this claim
And I am afraid our report ended that supply very little had been done
In the way of development and hard to see where the money had gone
We returned to Thompsons Landing without trouble of any kind
Then back to Arowhead by rowboat and to Revelstoke by coal truck
In a freight train geting very black and hungrybut better after a bath
Here we stayed the night or part of it as we had to get up at 4 a m
Returning to the Okanagan after an interesting trip with some samples

Later we made a flying trip into the Big Bend on horses from Revelstoke
To have a look at McCulough Creek and the Ophir Placer Mining Claim
It certainly looked pretty rough, large boulders and rocks all mixed up
C.E. Woods was negotiating the purchase of the claim this he did later
And offered me a one twelfth interest if I would go in and open it up
By clearing down to bedrock right across the creek from rim to rim
This offer I accepted as he was to supply the funds required
Unless we got gold from the claim which we later did and paid expenses

In July 1900 I went in with another man to clear up and straighten out
We did a lot of work so as to make a start and left in October
Our work was blasting rock and preparing a shack
In 1901 I went up in June with six men two to saw lumber for flumes
The others to clear rocks away and get ready to lay the flumes
It was on this trip that I broke my arm when nearly there
Just by the nine mile sheds I met a man on horseback
And as he turned round to speak to me his horse kicked out
Striking my arm and breaking it so that I had to turn back to Revelstoke
I explained to the men what to start at A Stringer was with me before
So could go ahead with things till I got back again
And I turned back to J. Boyds farm and got arm tied up a bit better
Going on to Carnes Creek I stayed here the night
In the morning I started for Revelstoke in pouring rain
When I got to within 9 miles of town I came to a mud slide
The whole hill was moving slowly down to the river 400 ft below
I got a stick to try and cross with but it was too deep
So had to climb up over it through brush and fallen logs and still raining
I was literally soaked through to the skin but got over and into Revelstok
There I had a bath and got into dry clothes and went to Dr Caruthers
Who set up my arm and I stayed in town the next day as it was still rain
The following day I started back crossing the slide that had stepped
But the trail was not cleared out and got to Carnes Creek
Where I stayed the night next day geting right through to our claim
Not stoping at the sheds as I had no pack could make good time
For work my arm was quite a handicap but fortunately my left
So I was able to dress the lumber for the gold boxes
Direct the men and do odd jobs about the place
I also went to Smith Creek to have a look around
But it was not long before I was all right and got to work carefully
In the fall all the men went out but I stayed in all winter
To cut riffle blocks for the flume a derick pole and wood (-shoes
I also had to keep a chinaman cook as I could not get one in on snow-
which he would have had to come on in spring as I wanted to start early
To use all the high water that I could possibly get
So men came in about the end of March when we started to run gravel
I had my riffle blocks all ready also derick pole and firewood
Everything was ready but it was a long winter & I was glad to see spring

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To kill time I made a model of the shack with its contents (considerably in all 72 feet of snow fell during the winter altering the scenery very considerably. The Goldstream flats were meadows with low willow bush scattered round. Towards spring looked like open prairie no willows showing or very few. About the end of March we started in with everything ready. And put through a lot of gravel and rocks with good supply of water. By September we had finished our job and cleared bedrock from rim to rim showing up a nice little pay streak. And my impression was that three or four men could go to work and clean up a nice little bit. But C.E. Woods thought it better to sell out at a price and clean up. This he did after getting an offer of \$120,000 and made a deal. Half cash the other half shares. This seemed to be pretty good. With part of mine I paid off the balance on the Rainbow Ranch. Foolishly I tied up my shares by giving an option on them. So was unable to sell them when I had an opportunity. The Company after spending lots of money putting in saw mill and pipe line and flumes were washed out and went broke.

Whilst in the Bend I made a good many trips in and out which used to take two days and a bit, on two occasions I did it in 2 days. What used to be called the burnt hill, was very hot walking over no shade in fact bare only black stumps scattered round. But now (1940) there are trees 30 or 40 ft high on each side of the road quite an avenue and very pleasant drive on good broad road. The men I had at the mine worked well and were quite interested in the job. Wondering how it would turn out, some I think worked on later. In 1901 when I was at the mine Queen Victoria died. And when the men came in that spring they told me. But I thought that they were pulling my leg not having heard anything.

In 1897 we used to go up to the Landing once a month on Sundays. For Mr Haws engineer on the Aberdeen to use our steam to clean boilers. One Sunday there was no one round to steer the boat except a Chinaman. Who was looking after Mr Woods house so I got him to go up with me. We got there safely but on the return it was exceedingly rough. And we were tossed about all over the place. The Chinaman turned round saying We kill sure We kill sure, I said not yet keep her going. Which he did very well, I had my job keeping the engine from racing. But enough way on the boat for steering. I had my hand on the throttle. All the time as the propeller would get right out of the water. Fortunately we had lots of wood in the back given us at the Landing. This helped very considerably to keep the stern down. But it really was rough and I take off my hat to the Chinaman. His first trip steering a boat many Whitemen would have been scared. I have seen some scared at very much less of a storm. We always had a good time when we went up for the boiler cleaning.

C.E. Woods invested in 20 acres of Orange grove at Pasadena California. And lived there a few years later going home, and then out to Mexico. Where he was drowned when going to examine a mining claim. In which he was thinking of investing but wanted to inspect first.

Our first few years on the Rainbow Ranch, The cattle were quite a trial. As a good patch of green wheat was very inviting to them. And although there was a good log fence all along the line (there the bulls would come along and walk through as if there had been nothing. And as there were about 1000 head on the other side of the fence. They made quite a mess of the wheat when they did get through.

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So every morning after the wheat was up we got out at 4.30 or 5 a m
And drove them away off along the lake shore and up into the bush
Also again in the evening as they always worked back again
This we did until they were taken to the higher ranges
Then we had a little peace only an odd one or two getting in occasionally

I feel that I must record the name of one man who helped me considerably
This was W.F. Cameron. When I had been on my place for about three weeks
I wrote to the Store in Vernon from which I had got my supplies
Asking them to send down a sack of flour and a lb of tea
After waiting two or three days I received a letter
Saying that they could not send it without the cash. My stock was \$5.00
Kept in reserve for emergencies. So decided to visit Vernon
So the next day I rowed up to the landing and walked the ties to Vernon
Going to W.F. Cameron I told him that I had taken up land down the lake
But would like to get some help to cary on if possible
He asked me what it was like. I told him no good for growing crops
As it was too dry and no water in sight for irrigation
But I intended to cut logs and cordwood for a time to keep going
All he said was, Go ahead I will see you through, which he did
By sending us anything that we needed often securing it for us
Such as the hardware that he did not keep, He also paid freight charges
Saying that we might not have it handy well knowing that it would be shy
I cant speak too highly of the way that he treated us on every occasion
Never bothered us for money. We just paid him when we had it
And got a statement once a year. He never refused a case of eggs
Although the town would be loaded up and others could not sell theirs
We dealt with him till his death certainly a good friend to us

Referring to the Big Bend Our trip out in 1900

Mr Brewster A Stringer and myself stayed at Carnes Creek over night
In the morning there was 18 inches of fresh snow and still snowing
But we started out walking through the loose snow
Not wanting to be caught in as none of us had snowshoes
However it was pretty hard going and I was the only one to reach town
The distabce was 28 miles A Stringer was the first to give up
Mr Brewster got to within two miles, But when I got in I had a bath
And clean up. Feeling quite fit went up town calling on F.B. Wells & others
I think that they were rather surprised that I had walked from Carnes

On another of my trips out Alec McBean asked me to have a look at a Claim
In the Keystone Basin So turning up the mountain near Boyds Farm
We arrived at the cabin rather late and stayed the night
During the night 3 or 4 ft of snow had fallen and was still falling
The cabin was occupied by another miner and located under a rock bluff
And between the cabin and mine tunnel there was an old slide site
That is the mountain side was clear of all trees and obstructions
The site of many former slides that had cleared the ground
As we stood outside of the cabin before starting for the mine
The old miner remarked that it was an ideal day for a slide
Alec McBean said yes too much snow to hang on that mountain side
We had better hurry up when we de start, it is none too safe
So we started off McBean in the lead myself in the middle
We were very nearly over when we heard a roar and McBean shouted hurry
Which needless to say we did as we had all heard the noise
None too easy either in the deep snow but we all got through
To the tunnel and only just in time as the whole mountain
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 And it seemed as if the trees broke off and laid down for the snow to pass
 It was really rather a strange sight as a tremendous wall of snow
 Rushed down the mountain side trees seemed to be broken off before being
 At first I thought it was faulty sight on my part (struck
 But J Saunderson who was with me said exactly the same thing
 And we were not very far off and felt the wind that had been created

The distance from Revelstoke to Carnes Creek was 28 miles
 From Carnes Creek to the sheds was 28 miles
 From the sheds to G.Lefornes Farm at the Goldstream was 9 miles
 There was a ferry over the Goldstream at LeFormes farm
 A scow running on a cable, mostly attended by J.Lawson
 G.Leforne put up the sheds to store hay to feed his horses
 He did the packing for French Creek and nearly the whole district
 With about 30 horses or I should say horses and mules
 Once he got caught in by the snow and lost the whole lot
 Trying to get them out through the deep snow another time 12 or 15
 The total distance to McCulough was about 65 miles
 Probably about 60 now as we had to go up and down and round about
 Now there is a large warehouse on the new road 55 miles out
 From here you turn right to McCulough and French Creek

As regards provisions we had to get these in by pack train
 Winter supplies before Oct 20 th and these had to last till June
 As horses could not get in before then on account of snow & flood water
 But now it will be better as the new road does not go so high or so low
 We had to pay 7¢ per lb freight for everything except potatoes
 Rhubarb and strawberries these we got from G.Lefornes farm
 The strawberries were very fine and large appreciated by all

On one of my trips in I took a horse as far as Boyds Farm for Leforne
 As he wanted to return it and it helped me to do so
 On the way I saw a fine big brown bear at the side of the trail
 And got all set for horse antics as I expected trouble
 But the horse never budged just had a look at him
 As if he had been a jack rabbit and the bear just looked up
 Then went on turning over rocks and old logs or bits of them
 Apparently looking for mice beetles or may be ant eggs
 But very uninterested in us just had a look and went on with his job
 He was a very nice redish brown rather dark and very sleek
 Not more than 20 or 30 yds off just above the trail

Another time I was bakeing bread in the shack when the cat came rushing in
 With her fur standing up on end thoroughly scared
 I went to the door and just turned round the corner
 When I met a fine big black bear face to face about 2 or 3 ft away
 But he turned round in a flash and ran down the trail into the bush
 You would hardly think that an animal so big could be so quick
 I did not have time to get scared he was gone before I could think
 Again up in the Devils Garden when J.Saundersen was returning to camp
 He picked up a very small grisly cub thinking to carry it home
 But it began to cry out so he changed his mind
 And putting the cub down began to run and in a very short time
 He heard the brush being broken down and considered himself lucky
 To have got away without trouble as there were no trees to climb

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Up at the Last Chance cabin with J Saunderson I saw five grizzly bears All together on the opposite side of the creek from the cabin Apparently eating berries as the whole hillside was in huckleberries I have seen many bears some very close but never shot one Chiefly because I had no rifle when I saw them or might have tried Nor have I had a shot at Cariboo although I have seen quite a number I very seldom carried a gun or rifle in the bend more interested in pack And miners pick to knock off bits of rock to inspect for mineral But I was once tempted to go after a goat which led me to quite a climb And one that I was pleased and much relieved to get out of After going along a ledge of rock for some way and unable to turn I had to climb up a chimney rock on one side snow on the other One toe on the rock the other tucked in the snow I started climbing up Twice I put my rifle down thinking to leave it behind But found that it was a good help and used it to make steps in the snow Which was practically ice, and used it as a support to climb with I had thought that it would be easier without but soon found it useful Eventually I reached the top which was as sharp as any roof ridge There being no chance to stand on either side with both feet So went along the ridge on hands and knees one knee on either side This I had to do for about 25 yds then I could get up and walk But it is the only time that I can remember of ever being nervous And was very glad to have got out of it without an accident It was only a very little way from here that I saw pink snow Or what looked very much like it but on close inspection proved to be Millions and millions of small red insects about the size of a pin head Moving about on the snow so that the whole patch seemed to be pink Probably about half a acre in extent a patch left balance bare ground And this was above timber line very near perpetual snow

In 1894 I sailed up to the head of the lake to get some wheat Wind was very strong and as the boat rode along on the crest of the waves It sounded like scrapeing over sand but it was a good fast trip At the head of the lake I went right up the creek Intending to go up to O'Keefs but saw an Indian house close to the creek And got it there as it was so handy and stayed the night Next day I got back as far as Whitemans creek and met the S.S. Miramichi With two men on board who offered to tow me home if I would help cut wood For the boat as they had run out this I did and we got a good stock Then we started for home but had not got far when they decided To go to the Landing first thinking that it would not take long I decided to stay with them as there was a bit of a head wind (of time And I thought that it would save me rowing & I would get back in plenty At the Landing I took charge of the boat whilst they went to see a man Needless to say he was at the Hotel, and after a time, I found That they were quite incapable of going home so I had to stay the night Hoping to be towed home in the morning but they were no better by then So I started to row back myself against a much stronger head wind But by keeping as much as possible in the shelter of the shore I arrived home after a good deal of hard work which need not have been The men did not return for three or four days. After a good time. Was it

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A job we helped at with our team was hawling a house from Glenmore Then known as Starvation Valley to the Postill Ranch It was quite a fair sized house in fact is still there to be seen And was to be a residence for the men working on the ranch The house was up on skids and the brush had been cut off for a road There were six or eight teams and the start was rather a mixe up As the teams were hard to get started all together And some broke their double tree or singletree, So it took time To get settled down, but when once started it went fine & arrived safely Mr Jee Christien was in charge but several seemed to be

In 1898 a Colonel Major and Admiral camped in our old shack for the winter Nor did they get any relief money to help them out for provisions Their expences were I believe 4¢ per day mostly put up by the Colonel But they survived being helped out by Venison and fish Very soon after the Colonel joined the Strathcona Horse for South Africa With a good many others going from Vernon and Kelowna (Boer War) The Major is still living on the west side of the lake, not moved much

In 1899 Valentine and myself divided up, He taking boat Wanderer & cash Taking up a piece of land near Bear Creek with very nice bay Quite sheltered from all winds, But he soon sold the Wanderer Gave up his land and put up a stoppinghouse on the Vernon Road Where the stage between Vernon and Kelowna stopped to change horses Messrs Jehnson and Carswell bought his boat the Wanderer And took it to Long Lake for towing logs from Woods Lake and odd jobs

I took the Rainbow Ranch still unpaid for and rented it To J Grady and F Bouvett whilst I was away at the Big Bend Where I stayed for three summers and one winter coming out in 1902 I rather enjoyed my stay up there it was hard work but very interesting And I met some very interesting old miners who gave me good advice With much help when needed J Saunderson had been in there 30 years Most of the time on the Last Chance Claim just above the Ophir In 1936 J Geldie took myself and J. Brixton up to have a look at the place I would have liked to stay a week but it was a trip much enjoyed And to have gone on up to the Groundhog Basin for view from the top At French Creek Glacier and the general view splendid Well worth a trip by anyone and much easier to get at now

In 1902 I went to England for a trip, first since I came out in 1883 Arrived on Christmas Eve and very pleased to see them all But soon felt very much out of it, nothing to do myself others all busy After a visit to Bath and other places with relatives I went to visit C.E. Woods who was anxious that I should work for him in his Brewery at Banwell in Somerset where he was living He showed me all over the brewery and explained things He had a very nice house and grounds and I enjoyed my stay very much But I had been out of England too long to be able to work there So decided to take another chance in Canada I was a little disapointed in my visit and rather homesick As I would like to live in England but would want plenty of money Able to do as I liked without conforming to too many conventions Of which there were far too many for freedom of action

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I returned in march and started to seed the Rainbow Ranch to wheat
Bought 70 sheep two cows a sow and a team of horses
I had quite a job getting the horses home they were both unbroken
Four years old medium weight and in quite good shape
Originally we had got a very nice team of greys fairly heavy
But one of them got killed down by the lake
One had been tied to a tree and his mate left loose had wandered off
The other trying to follow had thrown himself and choked to death
We got another heavy horse but he had a large swelling on his fetlock
Caused when he was very young by a bad rope scald when tethered
However it did not seem to bother him except on the road
This team I took to bring home my new one
With help and much trouble we got halters on them and tied to the wagon
Jim was pretty good but Bessie jumped round and threw herself
And I had to pull her along on the ground for a little way several times
Fortunately there was snow and she calmed down and came along
Always headstrong she later proved too much for F. Pow and he sold her
To Mr Scott the stage driver then managed to run away with the stage

Jim I kept till 34 years old a nicer or more sensible horse I never had
Very active absolutely reliable kind knowing disposition
Seemed to understand what you were doing and would kiss me when asked
It was like loosing an old friend when he departed this life
I had some exciting times breaking him in but he was never mean
The first time I hitched him up in a two wheel rig
He did not like to cross a small bridge down near the ranch
He got down in the ditch rig and all under the fence
I got off but still followed with the lines in my hands (to see me
Then sat in the rig and drove to the gate I think J Brixton was surprised
Starting out again I got out and ~~###~~ led him over the bridge this time
As he was not bridle wise yet, then we went on up the gulch road
The only road there was at this time and along the Vernon road
Shortly returning and passed over the little bridge without trouble

Another time I crossed a bridge near the Postill ranch on the old road
In a cutter snow being on the ground freshly fallen
Crossing the bridge with one runner only 2 or 3 inches from the edge
All the way over, arriving at our Post Office at the tree
I waited for Mr Scott with our mail, The first thing he said was
I bet your hair was on end all right when you crossed that bridge
I saw them tracks of yours they were much too close for me
They certainly were close but Jim was watching the other side of bridge
Another time I was driving to Kelowna. When at Duck Lake I met a man
I met a man on a bicycle very suddenly at a corner on the road
Jim turned round and went straight up the bank, so steep that I got off
And held the rig down to prevent it from turning over as turned round
The man said that if anyone had told him that a horse and rig
Could go up there, he would not have believed it
But he was glad that there was no trouble or anyone hurt
Again much later on whilst going down a hill with no road
And a load of furniture and bed and mattress on which I was sitting
On striking a rock this was shot out onto his back myself as well
As I was going I just said woah and he stopped and took it all
Without a flinch as if it were all in the game and quite O.K.
I was surprised at him myself but he was always gentle never mean

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But returning to the ranch I was feeling very unsettled really I had employed Mr & Mrs Pow to look after the ranch well knowing that there would be nothing in it for me after paying their wages So when F.Pow offered me \$10,000 for the place I accepted Reserving only my horse Jim some furniture and 18 acres in S.W. corner Mr Pow's purchase consisted of the ranch complete ready to carry on With 3 horses 2 cows and calves pigs and sheep Binder Mower Rake Harrows Disks Seeder Wagon 2 ploughs Fanning Mill and cultivator No cash was paid but I was rather glad to get it off my hands But in 1906 when Pow sold out I got my money and he did well enough

In 1905 I became engaged to Miss R.M.C. Ching and started to build a house When partly built in June I went to Winnipeg with T.R. Williams as bestman There we were married at Holy Trinity Church. This was a double wedding As Miss K.N.C. Ching a sister was married to A.H. Bevan at the same time They went to Kenora for their Honeymoon We went on down the lakes To Montreal and on to England and the Channel Islands, Jersey Visiting friends and relations all round quite a nice time But ready to start back in October and a sister of each of us came out To see what the Okanagan was like and I am afraid at rather a bad time As at that time it was rather a rough sort of life no conveniences However my sister made friends with T.R. Williams and went home to get married which they did and stayed in England for some years Coming out again in 1920 building a house but only staying a few years Preferring to live in England they returned again and lived at Bath Where they still are (1940) We were very sorry to lose them As it is not nice to have old friends depart so far away

Before I lose the track I must tell you about our wedding ring & stud The ring was made out of half a gold nugget I got in the Bend And my collar stud was made out of the other half I cleaned up the nugget in a fryingpan whilst looking round One rather hot day whilst wearing the stud in a rather tight collar I undid the collar leaving the stud in the shirt Later missing it I hunted all along the road to the rainbow where I'd been And all round the place but thought that I would not see it again Three years later I was weeding Melon plants about ¼ mile away When I suddenly saw it in a hill This had been manured from the stable The stud had evidently fallen from my collar in the stable Been thrown out onto the manure pile then drawn to the melon hills A most remarkable coincidence considering the size of the stud But I still have it but don't wear it as I am on the shelf myself

After our return from England I finished up the house papering all rooms Also did some ploughing ready for the spring when I planted a few trees One hundred Elberta peaches or supposed to be but turned out no good All small soft peaches I had to pull them all out after waiting 3 or 4 years I had already planted a row of acacia trees along the road (years) Also a few McIntosh apples that J.L. Webster had given us Together with a few shrubs lilac and spirea to plant near the house One Acacia near the house was seed when the house was started The fir and balsam were planted Xmas day 1905 taken from bush Winna planted the Cedar by the cellar door when she was 2 years old And the seedling about 3 inches high came from the intake Her garden was at the cellar door and she had strawberries as well

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Our endeavours to make a little out of vegetables and small fruit During the first few years was not very successful
A few examples. A man came down from Vernon to look at our cabbages And asked us to ship up a ton or so as much as we could We shipped him up 2200 lbs weighed at the Centre Received a receipt from Vernon for 2000 lbs later adjusted to 2200 lbs By adding another crate that was never sent The net returns received for the 2200 lbs was 90¢ not enough for plants This account was kept as a curiosity perhaps is still round
Another case was a shipment of blackcurrants We were to get \$2.00 per case Instead of getting \$16.00 we got a bill for 80¢ balance for express This was in Kelowna as were also the following examples
We had quite a lot of early turnips that we were feeding to the pigs A man came in looking for early potatoes and seeing these Said that he could get us 5¢ per lb for them if we would ship them down So we got busy washing and crating them a ton altogether my wife helping As we had to catch the down boat we were in quite a hurry Our returns were \$2.00 for the loss of a nice lot of pig feed and crates For twelve boxes of gooseberries # 480 lbs supposed to get 6¢ per lb We got \$8.00 just enough to pay for picking nothing for handling or boxes
For our first crop of McIntosh apples we got \$12.50 for 125 boxes A real disappointment as they were fine apples from young trees I think that the boxes cost us 20¢ each so it was very profitable

Together with another man we shipped a car of potatoes to Vancouver They left here in fine shape and were a very good grade On arrival in Vancouver they were half rotten or so it was claimed And instead of getting \$1.00 per sack we got 50¢ and could do nothing Tomato shipments were much the same sometimes we got nothing at all I could mention other cases but these will show how profitable it was Others were treated in the same way we were not alone I was afraid we might lose the ranch under these conditions So decided to hunt up our own markets and private customers This we did and secured quite a good connection and made money till 1930 When we were not allowed to sell Orchard Run apples as we were doing Our price being 75¢ or \$1.00 per box if packed \$1.25 F.O.B. Centre wharf The last car shipped peaches and McIntosh were allowed to deliver peaches But not the apples and although sold at 75¢ unliided could not deliver So had to store in Vancouver and pay storage for 3 months Then advised to sell to a man we did not know for 50¢ per box And have not been paid for them to this day nor likely to be now Not wishing to pack as our orchard was not big enough to make it pay We joined the Union our income very much reduced But I think that we get as much perhaps more than anywhere else Though it is much more interesting to sell your own fruit
And keep in touch with your customers much more satisfactory How the growers are to get along at the present prices I do not know For to treat an orchard properly it takes a considerable outlay of cash The grower produces the fruit hands it over to the packers Who pass it on to the shippers jobbers or wholesalers And knows very little about it until he gets his final cheque about June Then he can figure out how much he has made or lost Too late for making plans for the spring you cant buy fertilizer on speck Net knowing what funds you are going to have to spend However I dont want to grouse about it I had a few years of good prices And am really very thankful that I did as it was a very great help

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I have forgotten to mention that our wedding present from Mr & Mrs Woods was my old place on the West Side of the lake and furniture and a large box of linen sheets towels and cloths to do as we liked with I sold the place to Archie Dundas who later sold to W. Pease and he after a year or two sold to the Leeney Brothers who did considerable work on it later selling part of it to S.H. Vaughn and J.R. Cheesman and still later the balance to Mr Eppard who still owns it but the beauty as a building site ruined. My idea:

In 1906 the School section on the Vernon Road was put up for sale and R. Chatterton and myself bought it at \$5.00 per acre well knowing that the timber was worth more than that but in about two weeks we were offered \$17.00 per acre which we accepted soon it was sold for \$25.00 then after being divided up sold for \$125.00

In 1907 Okanagan Centre was started up by Maddock Brothers who came from Winnipeg and did a considerable amount of advertising the name was given after a competition with prize of \$25.00 for the best suggestion this was won by Mr Harvey of Kelowna when the surveys were completed I purchased seven ten acre lots and thirteen town lots this must have been an unlucky number as I lost on all of them but still own a few in 1902 I bought the first lot to be sold on the Tom Wood estate Winfield all timothy and clover hay lot at \$25.00 per acre this was because it was the first lot sold others were \$50.00 per acre later my wife and I bought other lots all bush that needed clearing

I let three contracts for clearing at different times twice to Whitemen the first two overdrove their account and cleared out without doing much the next two threw up the job did not want to finish it as agreed then I let to two Chinamen who did well making a good job but a fire got away from them, they got scared and cleared out but the fire had done no harm, if anything some good clearing underbrush but I had a job to find the Chinamen to pay them for what they had done I found them in Kelowna and they were surprised to get their money I had quite a job trying to persuade their boss that I only wanted to pay to pay for what they had cleared before they would show up at all being anxious to get it finished up so that I could seed it down decided to camp over there in a house whilst I did some work and thinking that it would be a bit of a holiday and change we all went over my wife Miss E. Ching and myself to stay a week with difficulty we stayed the night returning early in the morning driven out the attackers had been far too numerous and savage great precautions had to be taken against attack on the home front after this I had to drive over every morning returning at night at last I got it cleared up and seeded to alfalfa this was lot two later sold to M.P. Williams who further improved and seeded it down after selling all lots at Winfield we built the Grandview Hotel at the Centre for which we were to receive \$70.00 per month rent this we got for about 5 months dropping to \$15.00 then to \$10.00 finally getting burnt down quite a loss to us but may be a blessing as it was cleared up and the lots laid out in tennis courts which we hope will be of service to the Centre and lasting enjoyment

I have forgotten to mention that our wedding present from Mr & Mrs Wood was my old place on the West Side of the lake and furniture and a large box of linen sheets towels and cloths to do as we liked with I sold the place to Archie Dundas who later sold to W. Pease and he after a year or two sold to the Leeney Brothers who did considerable work on it. later selling part of it to S.H. Vaughn and J.R. Cheesman and still later the balance to Mr Eppard who still owns it. but the beauty as a building site ruined. My idea:

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A tent that we had on the lake shore costing \$100.00
We rented easily at \$15.00 per month returning more than the original cost
This was a good investment and floor of tent is still in use
Having been built into a house on the same site undisturbed

(landing
Going back to 1900 I had a small canoe in which I used to go to the
Then walked to Vernon over the ties returning the same day
Sailing if the wind was favourable, this I enjoyed very much
As she used to sail well having quite a keel easily steered
I also used to carry wheat across the lake for the chickens
On one occasion with wheat it leaked rather badly and I had no dipper
So it gradually filled up before I got across and would have sunk
But I called to Valentine who came out and rescued me just in time
I would never have got in without his help water was over the top
By the time he arrived and I got in his boat and saved the wheat
I used to take the canoe across the lake for the mail
Which used to be left at a tree on the Vernon road by the stage
And used as a Post Office, The mail was left every day
We used to collect it every other day unless we were expecting something
Or wanted to get goods from Vernon or Kelowna then we met the stage
This tree has been cut down much to the regret of those who used it
As a Post Office for so many years and waiting for the stage in the cold

My canoe was light and a bit cranky so I did not like lending it
But a young fellow who was staying with me wanted to go hunting
Said that he was quite used to canoes so I let him have it to cross in
He started out on a very cold day but we do not know what happened
For he was never seen again the canoe was washed up on the west side
I tracked up many rumours but none of them proved substantial
Not caring to use the canoe again I gave it away, but I quite liked it!
So light and easy to row and good keel for sailing

The first Presbyterian Church was built at the Centre in 1907
Miss W. Wentworth being one of these helping at the shingling
Mr A. Smith being the first Minister. The building also used as school
And for most meetings concerning the Community welfare
Rev. Bulkeley was the first Church of England Clergyman
And got a church built which is now the Community Hall
The Centre having joined with the Winfield Parish
Rev. Pearson being the first clergyman for the combined parishes
Building St. Margaret's church M.P. Williams being an enthusiastic helper
Previous to this Archdeacon Beer and Rev. T. Greene later Archdeacon
Used to hold an occasional service in a private house
Archdeacon Greene used to be at Moosomin and Cannington Manor
So there were a number of mutual friends we used to talk about
I think that he was an ideal parson for the young people (Kelowna)
And certainly did not have a very easy time of it during start of

In 1906 F. Pow sold the Rainbow Ranch to F. Hewer and Mr McAlister
And Jack O'Mahoney with Bob Girsewold marked it out and planted trees
Personally I was very skeptical if they would grow without water
But in 1908 they secured water from Maddock Bros Irrigation scheme
At first a little erratic in delivery I think but of considerable help
R.S. Dormer secured a share from F.A. Hewer Later James Goldie
Took the balance of F.A. Hewers shares. So that the present owners are
McAlister R.S. Dormer and James Goldie. A very different place
From the original as seen by myself in 1893 bare burnt up ground
It is rather hard to realise the difference in a few short years

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A few scattered pines and small patch of young pines 10 or 12 ft high
 Scattered patches of buck brush on practically bare ground
 As there was very little grass it had all been troden out by cattle
 The buck brush was good cover for prairie chicken of which there were many
 There was a little grass up the sides of the gulch tracked up by cattle
 Trying to get the little bit of grass that there was to be had
 In fact the whole place was bare eaten out by cattle
 Especially above the present Centre where it was only Sunflower leaves
 The leaves used to get as dry as paper and crackle
 As thousands of grasshoppers flew round and dropped in the dry leaves

Mr H.H.Evans was the first Horticulturist on the Rainbow Ranch
 And stayed till he got a job with the Government at the same work
 He always took a great interest in the ranch and I think still does
 Likeing to see things go ahead that he has had anything to do with

On one occasion I drove my horse jim to the top of Spion Kopje
 In a two wheel cart, we went up on the east side
 Not at all difficult although there was no road of any sort
 Another time I started out to drive along the top as far as I could
 But in the meantime there had been a cloudburst cutting out a gully
 Over which I could not cross with the rig so had to give it up
 But I have ridden along several times hunting horses
 I think that Winna must have been the youngest child
 Ever to have been on Spion Kopje as she was only two years old
 When taken up on an occasion when a picnic was held up there

In 1909 there was a sports day held at the Centre on July 1st
 And there were quite a number gathered in from all round
 The Programme consisted of horse and foot races obstacle race
 Tug of war boat races and swimming in fact quite a gala day

Both Jee and C.r Wentworth helped me considerably in cfearing up my lots
 And went to the front with nearly all the men during the last war 1914
 Whilst they were away Miss W.Wentworth stayed with us
 Helping both inside the house and outside helping with everything
 A most helpful and willing aid in picking packing and haying
 With eyes for anything that needed to be done
 Clearing up feeding rabbits pulling weeds and burning rubbish
 Very pleasant to work with and called The Bossy Help
 The Bossy Help one usually likes one who is interested in the work
 And willing to help at all times and at anything when most needed

Here are the names of those who died in the first Great War
 Who went from Okanagan Centre and the West Side District
 G.A.Bachelor. C.Carter. G.Fisher. W.H.Legge. B.Marshall
 C.R.Powell. Jerry.Powell. B.Somerset. S.H.Vaughn. J.Wentworth
 I had always hoped to get these names out in a piece of granite
 And had picked out a piece that I thought might do
 Entending to put it in the corner of the tennis court lots
 At first waiting for a bit of slack time then putting it off
 Like many things it never got done through procrastination

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There are many others who went overseas but fortunately came back
 But not quite as sound as when they went
 I am giving their names as a record of them having done their bit
 P. Atkinson, J. Brixton, J. R. Cheesman, C. Critchley, R. S. Dormer,
 Mark Ellis, G. M. Gibson, J. Gilchrist, F. Gray, E. D. Hare, J. Horner,
 H. B. Kennard, J. McNair, J. Powell, P. H. L. Seeley, A. Stocks, Alfred Stocks
 Rodger Sugar, Lionel Somerset, W. R. Tozer, C. R. Wentworth, M. P. Williams

Looking back from this date 1940 it is hard to realise
 That there were no cars no telephones or wires to Kelowna
 No communication except by boat or horse no electric light or Cinemas
 No water laid on very few shows of any kind no Radios or tennis
 Very little cricket and this on very rough ground no matting
 No Badminton in fact very little amusement of any kind at the start

During the war, we went in for Belgian Hares
 Hoping to make a little out of them and at one time had about 200
 Big and little but we could not make anything out of them
 As express charges were too high it cost 75¢ to send one across the lake
 For which we got \$1.00 and we could cross ourselves for 35¢
 This did not seem logical but it was the rate and detrimental to trade
 Butchers would only take about half a doz at a time
 On these we had to pay \$1.50 express and received 75¢ each for them
 Local demand was very light so they did not pay to trouble with
 And dogs came along one night and killed 75 of them this decided us
 So we gave them up and this was the end of keeping hares
 And the hutches were given away to clear up the place

Regarding the name of Mushroom Villa
 When T. R. Williams and J. Powell were baching together
 T. R. Williams used to bake the bread but one day he went to Vernon
 So Powell thinking to try his hand at baking bread
 Set a batch of dough but in the morning it had not risen at all
 And hoping not to give it away that he had tried
 Dug a bit of a hole put the dough in and covered it up
 Saying nothing about it when Williams got home
 But in the morning a large mushroom had appeared near the house
 Which proved to be a lump of dough, So the cat was out of the bag
 The shack had a veranda all round it which helped in the naming
 Which was I believe done by my sister Mrs T. R. Williams

I have constructed a model of my prairie farm buildings and possessions
 Which may give you an idea of what a pioneers farm was like
 The house is of hewn logs 14 X 18 feet a storey and a half
 That is kitchen diningroom and sittingroom all in one. (heat
 Two small bedrooms above stairway going up and drum in stove pipe for
 Well near the house was 52 ft deep intended to build kitchen over it
 If there had been a good supply of water but this did not happen
 The well only having water for a short time in the spring
 The firewood is stood up to keep it from being buried by snow (other
 The sod house was a chicken house with pig pen at one end hen coop at the
 An Ox yoke is leaning against the pig pen with chain pick and shovel
 The plough is an ordinary breaking plough as used for the sod
 Then harrows wagon and wooden sleigh granary and hay stable with loft
 Straw shed to protect the stable door and to store impliments
 The slough did not hold water for very long only about 3 months

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Saw horse bucksaw and axe to cut the wood and barb wire fence
The rocks in the box at the end of the pole balance the bucket of water
Making it very easy to lift up, this well was further off really
In the house a stove table chairs pots and pans shelves and picture
The flag pole on which a flag was flown if we had mail for neighbours
Whoever went to town brought out all mail for the district
And it passed on from house to house by means of the flag signal
Sometimes passing along 40 or 50 miles further west later we had a P.O.
A single flag referred to mail only two meant help
Signals by flag were arranged to suit later lantern at night was for guide
Granary is divided into bins stable mangers in and floored with poles
Door to stable is in the shed. I think this explains everything in model
I have also made a model of our mining cabin this is complete
With everything necessary and was built in the Big Bend
Taken to England in 1902 and returned later on the death of my parents

I think that I had the first Radio in the Okanagan
It was set up on June the 22nd 1922 and C. Greyell with Joe Edgar. Vernon
Were the first to hear music and song over it from Hale Bros K P O. Frisco
Later on I used to listen to G. Dunn of Kelowna starting to Broadcast
And admired his patience he deserves a good deal of credit
For being the first to start up the present Broadcasting Station
Now developed to a Station to be proud of by any Community
I heard K f I start up and have their acknowledgement Stamp still

At first quite a number used to come to listen in to the Radio
Out of curiosity not knowing what they were going to hear
Sometimes it would only be cat calls shrieks and whistles
Other times it would come in quite well clear reception
Quite a gamble what you would get but very interesting and exciting
Kept one busy till late at night trying what you could get on the Dial
My first set was a Marconi C Regenerative set one of 5 sent to Vancouver
The price was \$185.00. Cost now would be about \$10.00 but no demand
But everything has to have a beginning . and development was very rapid
One of the first things heard over our Radio
Was the opening of the Broadcasting Station at Seattle by the Mayor
When opening the station he asked those who heard him
To phone in or wire at his expense not expecting so very many
But a few days later he told us that it had cost him \$3000.00
To pay for the wires that he had received
He had no idea that so many were listening in to the Radio
He would have to be more careful in the future
As wires came from all over even from ships at sea

In 1925 my wife and Winna went to England and had a good time I think
Visiting friends and relations but were quite pleased to get back
To Okanagan Centre and their own home in particular
I was very pleased for Winna to see England but would have liked
To take her round myself with plenty of funds to look round with
And see again the old haunts but Somerville has been built over now
But I could even now draw a plan of the place with each path and tree
Marked and a plan of the house with out buildings
During this time 1925 & 1926 J.R. Cheesman was in shares with me
But we had very bad luck the frost having spoilt the peaches & cots
And apples were a rather poor price so found that there was not enough
To keep two families and Cheesman decided to get a place of his own

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To keep two families and Cheesman decided to get a place of his own

In the spring of this year I had double Phenumonia
But under the care of Dr Arbuckle and nurse Miss Ward I pulled through
Though a bit shaky for some time after

On the occasion of our Silver Wedding Aniversary June 29/30
Our neighbours and the community presented us with a silver Rose Bowl
A pair of silver Candle Sticks and other silverware
This I think was very kind of them and my wife and I much appreciated the
The very kind thought of the donors thus displayed
We were asked to tea at Mr & Mrs Venables without a hint
Of what was to take place. If I had known beforehand
I might have tried to make up a speech and learnt it up
But when the time came would have forgotten every word
And failed miserably to express my feelings adequately
Just as I actually did when taken by surprise, But I thought much more
Than I could express of our neighbours thought and kindness

I secured the first ~~new~~ Lady Elisabeth Ford that came to the Valley
It was the demonstration car sent to Mr Truswell of Kelowna
This was a bit of a luxury as we already had a Ford Light Delivery
However it has been quite a pleasant and useful luxury
And a year or so later would not have been bought
As things did not seem quite so rosy as in 1929 nor have they been since
Still I dont think that there have been any regrets she still survives
The first bloom gone and a little noisy but still game to carry on

Winna has always been a great pleasure to us and a great help
Both inside the house and out even when quite small
And later helping with the packing and box making being good at both
Very thoughtful and kind where her daddy was concerned
And I am very grateful for that as I am very undemonstrative
Being unable to say what I often think and feel to show appreciation
This is a very bad trait and I often wonder why this is so
But I have always tried to make her happy and comfortable
Under our conditions not being wealthy
I trust that she will always have a happy married life with Hugh
The Grandchildren are a great blessing to Mabel and myself
I would like to see them growing up but seemingly this is not to be
But I think that they will be living in a more peaceful world
And the Okanagan is a more peaceful place to live in
A better climate especially along the lake where it is warmer
And the lake rather a joy to those who like to live near water

After the last war a few things happened that I make short record of
My old friend Rusell Venables bought a piece of land from me
And settled down by the lake shore getting married to Miss H.L. Stedham
A very staunch friend always ready to give a hand when needed
A severe shock when he passed away, it was so very unexpected
And made a serious gap in my real friends and very much missed
Miss Molly Chapman stayed with us several times helping in the house
And outside picking tomatoes in the mud pitching hay and picking apples
~~Always cheerfulfulness of dancing rideing and tennis or anything going on~~
An expert with horses never happier than when handling them
She spent some time in the Williams Lake District on a Cattle Ranch
I could mention many happenings about this time but it make a book

In the spring of this year I had double Phenumonia
But under the care of Dr Arbuckle and nurse Miss Ward I pulled through
Though a bit shaky for some time after

On the occasion of our Silver Wedding Aniversary June 29/50
Our neighbours and the community presented us with a silver Rose Bowl
A pair of silver Candle Sticks and other silverware
This I think was very kind of them and my wife and I much appreciated it
The very kind thought of the donors thus displayed
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I have started four Homes one on the prairies still occupied
 Another on the west side of the lake still occupied site not so pretty
 Then the Rainbow still occupied and very much improved
 Beyond belief when you think of the original site photo of which I have
 Lastly there is the Sundial our present home. Wild land in 1905
 Buildings that I have built or had a hand in building
 On the prairie helped at my own house of logs stable and granary
 Helped at house and stable for A.H. Salmon built of logs (granary
 Built a cottage of three rooms and stable of lumber and roofed stone
 For Cpt Price These were built by myself with very little help
 And long hours the last work done on the prairie before leaving
 I had helped at others both log and lumber at different times
 Working on cottage in Vernon for a short time about a week or 10 days
 Put up a house for N. Spicer of 5 small rooms on a Coldstream lot
 Put up an addition to a house on Coldstream lot for A.F. Venables
 And a house on Long Lake for the boys Vernon Russel and Peter Venables
 My own house on the west side and a house on Sherts Point for A. Dundas
 Built the first shack on the lake shore at the Rainbow Ranch
 And built house very much added to and improved
 Put up a three room shack for M.P. Williams on Woods lake
 Also a small cottage at the Centre for him opposite the wharf
 House and stable at the Centre occupied by A. Hesler later by F.C. Copeland
 Shack for J. Grady now added to and occupied by Mrs Bradford
 Small house for G.M. Gibson now added to and much improved
 A two roomed shack for Mr & Mrs Dilley a little past the Centre now burnt
 Had the Grandview Hotel and two cottages built one of them for C. Hodges
 Hotel burnt down cottages occupied by Mr Long and Mr Cooney
 I have also built many stables and buildings of different sorts (something
 Quite content if I could be sawing lumber driving nails or building
 Even a little rough blacksmithing was quite welcome sometimes
 I also built a raft of 10,000 ft of lumber at Okanagan Landing
 And towed it down to the Rainbow Ranch or rather Bob Dundas towed it
 It was all used on the ranch for stable granary etc

In 1935 my wife and I took a trip to Nelson and on to Willow Point in our
 To see Mr & Mrs Applewhite at Willow Point where they had an orchard
 E H Applewhite was an old school day friend of mine at Millbrook
 And I had promised to go and look him up the first chance that I get
 So we crossed on the 9 a m Ferry at Kelowna to the west side of the lake
 And got along nicely until we arrived at the Anarchist Mountain road
 Here we met the stage at a very sandy place on the long hill
 We turned out as far as possible to the outside of the road ahead
 But the stage could not get out of the centre of the road just shoved sand
 When the heap of sand struck our wheel it turned his car out just missing
 We had stopped so saw his endeavours to get over to his side
 And must have come 25ft or more shoving sand ahead of him down the hill
 However no damage was done although very close then by the Velvet Mine
 We got a puncture and had to put on our spare tire
 Also had a look over the mine guided by the manager
 Perhaps in the hope of selling us some shares but he was very obliging
 At Rossland we filled up with gass but did not get our tyre fixed
 As they said that it would take 20 minutes or more but we were in a hurry
 So took a chance which in the end proved disasterous
 A little past South Slocan we had a blow out and the tyre came off
 And disappeared down the mountain side and was not seen again
 This was nine miles from Nelson and we had to walk back about 1 1/2 miles
 To get to a phone where a man phoned up to a garage in Nelson for tube
 Somehow they made a mistake in the size of tube and brought one no good

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 Somehow they made a mistake in the size of tube and brought one no good

So hoping to get one in South Slocan we went back there with Garage men
 All we could get was an old one after much trouble then started back
 When we had got about two miles their car broke down badly
 And had to be wheeled to the side of the road & we walked back to Slocan
 After a lot of trouble we got an old Bread Van to take us back to our car
 Myself and two Garage men where the bread usually was
 My wife on a chair in the front with the driver no other car to be got
 All cars had gone to Nelson as there was a circus in the city
 But we got to our car safely and fixed up the tyre
 And a Garage man drove us on into Nelson
 Here we had great trouble getting a bed as the place was crowded full
 Eventually we got one with a considerable number of empty bottles in it
 Thanks to our Garage man. But there was a good bed so we got supper
 At a Cafe and returned to our room and bed where we slept till 8 a m
 Next morning Sunday we crossed on the Ferry and went to Willow Point
 Arriveing at the Applewhaits without further trouble
 Here we stayed a few days very pleasantly helping a little with the hay
 Talking about old days old friends long unseen
 Kindly treated by our friends and a visit much enjoyed
 When we started back we stayed in Nelson till 10.30 a m
 Getting the car greased gassand a new tyre for the trip back home
 Then started back by way of Nakusp Monashee Mountain and Lumby
 We had passed Slocan and were well on our way to Nakusp
 When we ran into a very severe wind and rain sterna
 And trees were blown across the road coming to one and seeing a cabin
 I walked down to it to get a saw or an axe but it was empty
 On the way to the cabin there were about 20 trees across the road
 We turned round and drove back about 2 miles and saw some road men
 Who came along and cut the tree out. Then going on a little further
 We came to another but fortunately were able to drive under it
 By keeping close to the bank. But the Stage which had stopped could not
 We did a lot of tooting to attract the road men then started on
 Very shortly we came to a clay hill and slid down mostly sideways
 Luckily it was a bit rough at the sides with gravel just a narrow berder
 When we struck this we straightened up for a while
 But very hard to keep straight although running free it was like butter
 Most unplesant and there was a steep drop on one side of the road
 But we got by and soon crossed on the Ferry near the needles
 Then on up over Monashee Mountain in places not too good
 Then through Lumby and on by the head of Long Lake to main road again
 Arriveing home at 10.30 p m twelve and a half hours from Nelson
 In spite of all delays and troubles nor were we very tired

As you may have guessed I am very fond of the mountains
 And like nothing better than walking round in the timber
 Or even above it where there is only low small scrub
 A well grown symetrical tree is a thing of beauty to me at any time
 And distant mountains a pleasure to look at from nearly any quarter
 Animals and birds only add to the pleasure of roaming round
 Nature teaches us many things if we will only learn
 Even in ones own garden there is much pleasure to be had
 The more so probably because of the amount of work that it takes
 To keep it in shape, but results well pay for the trouble
 It also takes considerable patience waiting for the results

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If you have managed to follow this record through
 You may think that I have not had much of a time that is little pleasure
 But I can assure you that I have quite enjoyed my life
 Getting pleasure in doing something keeping busy always hoping
 Always hoping to attain something better but with many disappointments
 These seem to have begun from the very start as a boy
 Not being able to get into the Navy on account of my foot
 Next on the prairie my failure to make a living on account of the hail
 I think now that that was a blessing in disguise
 Climate and life here so much more pleasant even without wealth
 Not being able to live at the coast was a disappointment at the time
 For I thoroughly enjoyed the sea air salt water and smell of the sea
 I could have lived there very happily with a reasonable job
 But much prefer being independent and working on my own account
 I think them days is gone for ever; We are all dependent on one another.
 Again growing wheat on the Rainbow was disappointing but not unexpected
 And although I have little to complain of as I did get good prices
 For our fruit for a little while which put me on my feet
 I do think that the growers should get better prices
 The price begins at the wrong end, it should begin with the grower
 And I fail to see why he should produce at a loss
 When everyone else is making money out of his produce
 From the pickers to the retailers all get their share before the grower
 I have known of people on the prairie pay from \$3.00 to \$3.50
 For a box of apples that we were getting 45¢ for sometimes 10¢
 Perhaps it may be better soon that is always the hope that we live on
 I never expected to make a fortune I could not keep it anyway (with
 But I would like to have made a fair living with something extra to play
 However I am not going to complain I have had many friends
 Which is really better than plenty of cash, they have helped me many times
 I have often been in a tight box when someone has turned up
 Or events happened that relieved the situation and all has been well
 To have good neighbours is one of the blessings of this life
 And I know that I have them for they have been tried many times
 I am more than grateful for their many kindnesses so often done
 And to receive a helping hand when needed is always a pleasure

Before I close I must record that I very much appreciate the position
 Of my wife a difficult position for anyone under the circumstances
 Here I have been, laying ill most of the time
 Not knowing what might happen at any time up and down
 An anxiety for anyone and more so for my wife
 But I must say that I am quite pleased to be spared a little longer
 In this old world even incapacitated it is not so bad after all
 And I am very sure that I am mostly in debt to Miss E.M. Welch
 For my extended stay for she has done all possible to make me comfortable
 Sometimes with the loss of considerable sleep but I am very grateful
 I am also thankful to my brother-in-law T.R. Williams for his assistance
 Without which I could not have afforded a nurse or been so comfortable
 There would have been worry over funds to carry on this was saved me
 When lying down for a long time a comfortable bed is a pleasure
 This was provided by J. Goldie with many other comforts much appreciated
 In fact everyone has been most kind. It is nearly a pleasure to be ill

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I really must close up now and if you have managed to get this far
Remember that it is the record of a life with some items forgotten
And others better forgotten so not recorded and therefore lost
Thus a life begins goes on and soon is ended, or is it so?
I have my doubts. I think that we go on to another life
So have another chance to do better. Who can tell?
But we all knew that we have to leave this life
Even if we have no wish to do so. But I am content I have had my turn.
But would not mind another start. There might be changes.

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TO McCULLOUGH CREEK AND THE GROUNDHOG BASIN

If you a holiday would take
To Groundhog Basin you should make
From Revelstoke in Auto you may ride
Along a road both good, and wide

For forty miles to Downie Creek you go
And fifteen more, to the place you seek, for lo
A warehouse here upon your right you see
And also here ~~### ##~~ still right your trail will be

And on your way some camps of men you'll find
Who make and mend the road but do not mind
Although you come upon them unaware, alas
Obligingly they clear the road and let you pass

Columbia River on your left below
Will guide you on your way to go
And grandure seen in front, behind
Will be impressed upon your mind

For mountains grand with snowy peak
Are scenes that always make one speak
Nor will the scenes forgotten be
E'en though thine eyes should fail to see

For many years in other parts detained
Joys of first sight have still remained
Where ere you go a pleasant picture seen
Recalls to mind the places you have been

At Falls called Silver Tip you'll surely stand
To enjoy the sight so very grand
As water tumbling over rocks with spray
From heights so steep there's no delay

Then Canyon Creek so very deep
The sun can never get a peep
Of creek below, between walls so high
You think they surely reach the sky

And now to Carnes Creek fairly wide
A stopping place for those who ride
A stable here to feed your horse
And nights rest for yourself of course

Five miles more to Jhonie Boyds old farm
And Downie Creek to cross without alarm
As now a bridge will carry over water
Where stream so strong would make one falter

In days gone by the trail that led
From Downie to the nine mile shed
Was bare and open to the fiercest sun
If walking surely glad when it was done

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As now a bridge will carry over water
Where stream so strong would make one falter

In days gone by the trail that led
From Downie to the nine mile shed
Was bare and open to the fiercest sun
If walking surely glad when it was done

But now upon a broad smooth road you ride
With trees that shade on either side
An avenue of tall spruce and firs
Have grown within these five and thirty years

Not easy for a man to realise
Unless he saw with his own eyes
The same old scenes he used to know
So changed as o'er the ground he go

This warehouse surely is a boon
For men to store their goods, So soon
To have to pack upon their backs
All things they need at their own shacks

But let us now upon the trail proceed
And leave our auto which we will not need
Ride on a horse should you not wish to tire
Until a ferry you will find attached to wire

On this you cross the Goldstream sometimes high
And come to Creek McCulough very nigh
To meet two miners who will gladly hasten
To show to you the way to Groundhog Basin

Up up you go five miles or more
To where you've never been before
I'm sure delight will meet you there
And Ole Bull # ~~seven~~ ~~first~~ of logs a cabin fair

Will give you rest the coming night
For further climb when it is light
It used upon the left to stand
As weary on the top you land

Upon the ground there's soft green heather
Above there must be fine clear weather
To see French Creek Glacier green and clear
And scrubby timber scattered far and near

From Ole Bull turn slightly to the leftt
But go not down keep up above the cleft
And going up at all times never mind
For ridge as steep as any house you'll find

So steep there is no room to put your feet
But on the ridge a place to have a seat
And look North South East or West
You have a view supreme the very best

A sea of mountain tops all dressed in snow
Of spires and domes that shine in sunny glow
While yet above the blue blue sky
Makes beauty real you can't deny

But now upon a broad smooth road you ride
With trees that shade on either side
An avenue of tall spruce and firs
Have grown within these five and thirty years

Not easy for a man to realise
Unless he saw with his own eyes
The same old scenes he used to know
So changed as o'er the ground he go

This warehouse surely is a boon
For men to store their goods, So soon
To have to pack upon their backs
All things they need at their own shacks

But let us now upon the trail proceed
And leave our auto which we will not need
Ride on a horse should you not wish to tire
Until a ferry you will find attached to wire

On this you cross the Goldstream sometimes high
And come to Creek McCulough very nigh
To meet two miners who will gladly hasten
To show to you the way to Groundhog Basin

Up up you go five miles or more
To where you've never been before
I'm sure delight will meet you there
And Ole Bull of logs a cabin fair

Will give you rest the coming night
For further climb when it is light
It used upon the left to stand
As weary on the top you land

Upon the ground there's soft green heather
Above there must be fine clear weather
To see French Creek Glacier green and clear
And scrubby timber scattered far and near

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We hope there'll be some fleecy cloud
Above the glistening Glacier proud
That on your mind may make a fixture
Of this unsurpassed and glorious picture

How glad I'd be to have another look
Who know this picture as though a book
But memory is kind I always think and say
And trust it will remain, to my last day

And when you sit upon this ridge
Consider would you like to bridge
The chimney by your side from shale below
One foot on rock the other tucked in snow

To climb this mountain side as I myself
Assayed to do when standing on the shelf
Afraid to trust the shale so loose
Nerves a little shaky perhaps a silly goose

However up I went with rifle kind
Although I'd left it twice behind
Thinking that I would freer be to climb
But help it was and so I rose in time

Glad to be up and the top new seen
Never more to follow goat so keen
That awkward places are attained
Whil'st desire of chase remained

E'en now nerves rather shaky I'll admit
On hands and knees I went for quite a bit
Till the ridge more level came
Then to my feet I rose again

T'was here I saw the pink pink snow
Hard to believe for was it so?
On close inspection then I found
Insects in millions on the ground

If these ragged rhymes of mine amuse you
T'is all I ask and more than I expect they'll do
But in some small way it may a picture seem
And to your mind renew the ones you've seen

But never mind if you can find the time
To take this trip a real suggestion mine
And if of nature you a lover are
Can see these scenes nor go so very far

Northcote H Caesar

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OK Centre

Lent by Hugh Bernau (re Mr. Caesar)

As an introduction to this discourse on my arrival and subsequent life in the Okanagan, I would like to give you a very brief account of my adventures from the time of sailing from England in the month of July in the year 1883 (72 years ago).

After a very rough crossing which took 14 days, the 14 passengers and I arrived at Quebec, from there we took a train to Toronto, stayed four days, and thence to Collingwood where we took a boat to Port Arthur. Here the rails had only just been laid, and I was on the first passenger train to Winnipeg. The train travelled - or perhaps it would be better to say it pitched and rolled - at a speed of 15 miles or so an hour, slowing down to a walking pace over rickety trestles which caused much concern amongst the ladies.

There was a great reception awaiting us when we arrived at Winnipeg. From here I came eventually to Moosomin in Saskatchewan. Here I stayed a couple of days until I found a man to show me my homestead. This consisted of a tent on the Prairie with nothing else in sight! Try to imagine a tent 7x7 feet and nothing else except a stove with a sod wall around it 3 ft. high to keep the wind from the oven to allow the bread to bake. A neighbour of mine went to Brandon for a wagon, plough, and oxen span, also my boxes. Left alone I got busy digging a well, cut a little hay for beds, marking out a foundation for a stable, and other jobs. My neighbour returned in about a week. To recount all my experiences from this beginning, right through the eight years in which I was hailed out four times would fill a book, but let it be said I finally decided that if I was to make a living I must try elsewhere, and so it was that in Nov. 1891 I arrived in Vancouver.

I got a job here delivering milk every day of the week. Up at 5 a.m. helping to milk 25-30 cows, loading the milk into cans and moving them across to Hastings. Here I hitched up a democrat and so to the Vancouver Hotel where 30-35 gallons of milk were delivered. The following spring I had a job as cook with a survey party. This was a good job, but did not last long as the party finished their work and I returned to the milk ranch. After a bout of rheumatic fever I was advised to try a drier air of the Interior. So it was that in October of the year 1892 I arrived in Vernon and stayed at the Coldstream Hotel.

1112 -> I helped to build a house on a Coldstream lot during this my first winter in the Okanagan. This was perhaps one of the coldest winters ever experienced in these parts, and until the lumber arrived and we were able to build a kitchen I lived in a tent under a foot of snow for about 10 days. Thousands of cattle died this winter for want of food, there being no hay to be got anywhere. A heavy loss to the ranchers. Later I helped J.L. Webster to fence the Coldstream Ranch, after which I ploughed Webster's place and got it into shape so that he could plant out his nursery stock of fruit trees, many of which were grafter by Webster, using local scions on imported stock, and then sold to the fruit growers. On the 24th of May 1893 Mr. Webster and I went to Okanagan Landing with a boat I had built, launched it first, and then watched the launching of the S.S. Aberdeen. Capt. Shorts was there, expressing a decided opinion that the C.P.R. ought to have put up the drinks all around on such an auspicious occasion. But my private opinion was that the Capt. would have been better without some he had already consumed! However, opinions differ. At this time the S.S. Penticton plied up the Lake one day and down the next, Opt. Riley being the skipper. (I remember asking Cpt. Forester who was the first Captain on the S.S. Aberdeen if he would tow my boat down the lake - however the water was too rough so he put my boat aboard and brought it down to the Ranch). After the launching I started down the Lake on the West side, camping that night at Whiteman's Creek. Next day I sailed slowly down, stopping at many places. I saw men at Morden's Camp which is now Ewing's Landing and Killiney, then I landed at Short's Point now Fintry and had a good look around. This place was for sale for \$1000.00. Too much for me, ~~had~~ I had to get land free, not being blessed with

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I helped to build a house on a Coldstream lot during this my first winter in the Okanagan. This was perhaps one of the coldest winters ever experienced in these parts, and until the lumber arrived and we were able to build a kitchen I lived in a tent under a foot of snow for about 10 days. Thousands of cattle died this winter for want of food, there being no hay to be got anywhere. A heavy loss to the ranchers. Later I helped J.L. Webster to fence the Coldstream Ranch, after which I ploughed Webster's place and got it into shape so that he could plant out his nursery stock of fruit trees, many of which were grafter by Webster, using local scions, on imported stock, and then sold to the fruit growers. On the 24th of May 1893 Mr. Webster and I went to Okanagan Landing with a boat I had built, launched it first, and then watched the launching of the S.S. Aberdeen. Capt. Shorts was there, expressing a decided opinion that the C.P.R. ought to have put up the drinks all around on such an auspicious occasion. But my private opinion was that the Capt. would have been better without some he had already consumed! However, opinions differ. At this time the S.S. Penticton plied up the Lake one day and down the next, Opt. Riley being the skipper. (I remember asking Cpt. Forester who was the first Captain on the S.S. Aberdeen if he would tow my boat down the lake - however the water was too rough so he put my boat aboard and brought it down to the Ranch). After the launching I started down the Lake on the West side, camping that night at Whiteman's Creek. Next day I sailed slowly down, stopping at many places. I saw men at Morden's Camp which is now Ewing's Landing and Killiney, then I landed at Short's Point now Fintry and had a good look around. This place was for sale for \$1000.00. Too much for me, had to get land free, not being blessed with

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capital. I sailed down the Lake as far as Trout Creek, then crossed over to the East side of the Lake as I heard that T. Ellis owned all of Penticton. I stayed the night at Deep Creek then sailed up past Kelowna and steered straight for a place which I had liked the look of on my way down.

Here I built a shack with the help of a friend whom I knew on the Prairie and who joined me later--and we cut some 500 thousand feet of logs for lumber at 75¢ per 1000 feet. Also 525 cords of 4 foot wood for the S.S. Aberdeen. This we did for 4 years until the Aberdeen converted to coal. On two occasions when delivering wood the S.S. Aberdeen came on Xmas day and we were invited to dinner on the boat. This was much appreciated, also the good drink of Scotch from R.C. Haws the engineer; making a welcome change from our batching with not many luxuries.

In 1896 my friend and I bought the S.S. City of Vernon from McAuley & Grant. This was Capt. Shorts' old boat better known as the "Mud Hen," said to be as often on the bottom of the Lake as on the top!

We finally salvaged the engine, stripped off the upper structure of the S.S. Penticton which Mr. Lequime had offered to us, found a good fir log, and took it to the Sawmill at Kelowna. This log they most kindly sawed for us without charge--so we had the stern post and keel all in one piece of solid fir. Then we got vine maple and small fir for the ribs. After considerable labour, as tools were scarce, we finally got the boat built, and at the launching christened it the S.S. Wanderer.

In 1897 we used to go up to the Landing once a month on Sundays in order that Mr. Haws, the Engineer of the Aberdeen, might use our steam to clean the boilers. One Sunday there was no-one around to steer the boat except a Chinaman. He was looking after Mr. Wood's (the Wanderer) house so I got him to go up with me. We arrived there safely, but on the way back it was exceedingly rough and we were tossed around all over the place. The Chinaman turned to me and said--"We kill, sure we kill." I said "Not yet, keep her going". Which he did very well. I had a job keeping her engine from racing, but enough way on the boat for steering. I had my hand on the throttle all the time as the propeller would come right out of the water. Fortunately we had lots of wood in the back, this helped considerably in keeping the stern down. It was really rough, and I take my hat off to this Chinaman, his first trip steering a boat. About this time we purchased the Rainbow Ranch from the Barr Brothers who had named it on account of a Rainbow appearing over the Ranch. Whenever there was one in the district the Ranch had an end of it, so they called it their trade mark, and thus the name was stuck with the Ranch! In buying the Ranch we thought that we were making a big gamble as we had no money and the price was \$2000.00 half cash. We gave notes for \$1000.00 which we hoped to make by cutting logs and by sale of wheat. The \$1000.00 cash we got by mortgage on which we paid 12% interest, pretty stiff, we thought, but it is a dry Ranch and looked upon as value/less. It took me some 6 years to clear the mortgage completing this through sale of a mine. Wheat growing was uncertain, it being too hot and dry; and the price of \$16.00 a ton not leaving very much over after paying expenses which came to around \$12.00 a ton for threshing, sacks, freight, binding cord, not to mention ploughing, seed, horse feed and taxes. Some years there was no profit. The Wanderer proved very useful, as we did odd jobs such as hauling ore from the Morning Glory Mine to Landing--the Aberdeen not being allowed to carry dynamite with passengers. We towed logs to the H.S. Mill, about 100 thousand feet to the raft. This was generally being 1 1/2 to 2 m.p.h. We also took the Kelowna Cricket team to Trout Creek--now Summerland--and played up on the Barclay Ranch. Another time we took the same team to Ok. Landing, from whence they were conveyed to Vernon by Joe Harwood's team of horses. After this game we were all given supper at the Coldstream, and returning very late stayed at our place for the night. There being but 2 bunks on the boat, and 4 in the shack, several of us slept on the beach--fortunately we had plenty of meat, bread and butter, porridge and eggs with fish caught by someone in the morning; and when we took them back to Kelowna they all said how much they

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I took the Rainbow Ranch still unpaid for and rented it to F. Grady and F. Bouvett whilst I was up at the Big Bend prospecting. I stayed there 3 summers and one winter coging out in 1902. I enjoyed my stay there. It was hard work, but interesting and I met some very interesting old miners who gave me good advice. (I have several pages in my book devoted to my stay there, and perhaps might recount them some other time). I sold the Rainbow Ranch in 1903 to F. Pow, retaining 18 acres in the S.W. corner which is now the Sundial Ranch.

It is hard to realize how in a few short years from ? burnt ground as the Rainbow was in 1893 with a few scattered pines, patches of buck brush and very little grass, to what is now a flourishing orchard.

I believe that I had the first radio in the Okanagan. It was set up on June 22, 1922, when we heard from music from K.P.O. S'Frisco. Later I used to listen to G. Dunn of Kelowna starting to broadcast, and admired his patient; he deserves a good deal of credit for being the first to start up the present Broadcasting Station, now developed into a station to be proud of by any community.

These are just a few selected items from my book "The record of a life" but it must be remembered that some items are not in the book because they have been forgotten, and others better forgotten so not recorded. Thus a life goes on and soon is ended, or is it so? I have my doubts, as I think we go on to another life, and so have another chance to do better. Who can tell? But I am content, altho' I would not mind another start. There might be changes!

Addenda--much later.

Talking across the Lake

Across the Lake--this was mostly about mail. We would start at 6 p.m. always same time, and we would say one word at a time like no mail or mail or parcel, come or other words very slowly.

Klondyke Party. About 8 horses and men and 6 pack horses arrived at my place on west-side going to Klondyke, and one man wanted to know if they were through the mountains yet, he felt the cold--just sat over a fire with blanket over him to keep warm. The other boys looked after the horses. All very keen to get through and going to make a fortune.

* First Meal on the Prairie. Bacon and prunes and bread. The bacon was covered with pepper as I thought, but it was dust blown in from the land and very gritty to my teeth, but I swallowed it down without a word--experience for a boy of 17.

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