

## LOUIS B SEYMOUR and his NEW FLAGPOLE

A colourful character from the turn of the century was Texada's first Justice of the Peace, Louis B Seymour. In a 1959 article local historian Bruce McKelvie relates the brief Texada history of this sturdy, walrus-moustached Englishman.

Seymour was "very proud of his judicial office" and, as first editor of the January, 1900 *Coast Miner*, he filled the newspaper with pro-British Empire opinion.

The Boer War (1899-1902) was raging and Irish Fenians were rumoured to be planning a raid into Canada. Editor Seymour was concerned about the level of local patriotism. The most recent troubling incident occurred at the school when a public entertainment ended without the singing of the national anthem!!

"Being popular with the fair ones," Mr Seymour set about organizing a "patriotic ladies' committee" to obtain a flagpole for the school. "The erection of a flagpole will atone" for the "serious breach of social etiquette," he reported in the newspaper.

In the accompanying photo the new flagpole is seen in front of the "Honeymoon Cottage" directly above the Van Anda wharf. This log cabin was offered in 1898 as Texada's first school by Harry and Olive Treat (Van Anda Copper and Gold Company) when they completed their new home (seen higher on the hill and still standing).



Mr Seymour's official peace keeping duties were called upon in the previous month (Christmas 1899) when a drunken fellow - a furnace man at the smelter - "in an effervescent mood" threw his wife out the window.

Seymour organized a 6-man "posse" of special constables to arrest the husband "in the name of Her Majesty the Queen" and lock him up in a vacant building until sober.

Having insured the security of the British Empire on Texada, Mr Seymour moved to Victoria shortly after to become a member of the Legislative Press Gallery.

Thanks to Bruce McKelvie who, as a young lad working at the newspaper, witnessed these events.