

BOOM TOWN VAN ANDA - 1900 - PART 2

The residents of Van Anda in 1900 no doubt found the *Coast Miner* newspaper a good source of local information, gossip and civic pride.

To promote the “go-ahead settlement” the editors called for improved contact with the outside world. They argued that connection to “telegraphic communication” was possible as Van Anda was only 20 miles from the “end of the wire.”

In addition, the newspaper lamented the government’s decision to refuse requests for a jail and constable for the growing town.

Under the sarcastic headline “All Are Angels,” the paper commented that the authorities were “certainly complimentary” as their decision “implied confidence in our inhabitants.” In the meantime, though, “we do not even get a pair of handcuffs.”

In community news the *Coast Miner* reported that the teacher, Miss Parsons, enrolled 50 children in school on opening day. “Where all the children come from is a mystery,” pondered the editor.

Meanwhile, the flurry of construction continued. The Presbyterian Church was being erected and Mr McLeod had completed his “pretty cottage” at Myrtle Lake farm.

Alfred Raper was now living in his log “mansion” near the Cornell Mine. Ensnconced in his “splendid specimen of a log cabin,” affable Alfred - “the soul of hospitality” - was “always glad to welcome friends.”

In local gossip, the newspaper celebrated the return of Charlie Rabson, the “prodigal son.” His “beaming smile” and “whole-hog-or-none intrepidity” should be “quite a hit at social functions.” No doubt Charlie would have been welcome at the Bachelors’ Dance advertised for Friday at the Marble Bay Opera House.

In other news, Master Willie Scott (16), while visiting the *Coast Miner* offices, inquired if it was better to let one’s moustache grow to please the girls or shave it off and look “as ugly as a hedge fence.”

Other articles included:

HOME REMEDIES: “Disagreeable onion breath can be got rid of by swallowing a mouthful of vinegar.”

HOME DECOR: Ladies might appreciate that “paper doilies have reached high art in texture and beauty of design.”

WEATHER: “We have had more than average mortals’ share of nature’s showers of blessings.”



It is fortunate that these few pages of the *Coast Miner* have survived to afford us a glimpse into daily life on Texada 122 years ago.

Peter Lock

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