

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

FROZEN IN BLIZZARD, "DOC" BROWN, PROSPECTOR, CUT OF TOE WITH HUNTING KNIFE

Three weeks spent in a shack on Seven Mile Creek during which he amputated the small toe of his left foot with a hunting knife—such was the experience of "Doc" R.A. Brown, a well-known prospector who was brought down from Pitt Lake yesterday afternoon by Provincial Constable George Elliott after having been reported lost more than a week ago. Although his left foot is badly frozen, Brown refused go to the hospital and insisted on registering at the Holbrook Hotel, his "hang-out" while in the city.

Brown was discovered in the shack at Seven Mile Creek by Constable Elliott and the Fire Ranger McMillan who formed a search party when Capt. W.H. Armstrong reported that the prospector was much overdue following a summer and fall spent in the district north of Pitt Lake.

"Volcanic" Brown as he is known in the Cranbrook country, had a terrible experience before being discovered by the officers. The main party of the prospecting trip who included Thomas A. Perry, Jim Perry, Mathew Platzer and George Platzer, had left Brown in August when the latter insisted in staying on a few weeks longer in the hopes of locating a lost gold mine in the district.

Brown was forty miles north of Pitt Lake when he commenced to cross the Stave Glacier and was overtaken by a blizzard. He was part way across the glacier when the storm broke and finding it impossible to make headway he slept out in the open the first night. It was then his left foot was frozen in what is known as a silver thaw, rain turning to ice once it struck the ground. He related yesterday how he fell hundreds of times only to pick himself up and continue his journey to the lake. Finding it impossible to cross the glacier Brown traversed the edge of the ice plateau, making an average of five miles a day for four days.

Brown finally reached the shack on Seven Miles Creek where there were plenty of provisions, but he was more or less helpless and for three whole weeks he was cooped up in this shack, his leg getting worse every day.

The prospector still retains a lot of enthusiasm in the country he had prospected the past two years. He has reported yesterday the discovery of three valuable aluminum ledges.

Constable Elliott, who accompanied Brown during the trip on the New Delta showed evidence of having been through a tough struggle. He had not shaved for a week.

Frozen in blizzard, "Doc" Brown, prospector, cut of toe with hunting knife

British Columbian 22 October 1926