

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

LURE OF THE WILDS NEARLY FATAL TO AGED PROSPECTOR
DOC. BROWN, 70, RESCUED JUST IN TIME

Port Coquitlam, October 18—The lure of the wilds and its ever-present promise that just round the corner may be found the lode of gold for which all prospectors strive nearly proved fatal once again to an aged pioneer who has faith that one day he will find an Eldorado.

This time it was Robert A. (Doc.) Brown, known throughout the Fraser Valley, who almost paid the supreme price. More youthful men, accustomed to the perils and privations of the wilds are now carrying him out on a stretcher. One of his feet is frozen and he is in a badly emaciated condition.

The aged prospector has been in the wild country north of Pitt Lake alone since August and should have been out before the middle of September.

Provincial Constable George Elliott and A. McMartin, trapper of Hammond, went in search of him two weeks ago, carrying foods and comforts in case he was in need.

Found in Cabin

Over windfalls and crags, searching every part of the country as they penetrated into its roughest parts, they took longer than had they been going on ordinary missions.

Brown was found lying in an old log cabin near Seven-Mile Creek, 25 miles from Pitt Lake, alive, but in very low condition. He had no matches to light a fire, one foot was severely frosted and his food was almost gone.

Quickly lighting a fire they prepared warm food, attended to his foot and, immediately he was comfortable one man proceeded back for more food, medicine, and a stretcher. The other remained to doctor the patient.

They will carry Brown out through dense forest and underbrush to the head of Pitt Lake.

Brown was one of those who accompanied George Platzer, R.A. Brown, Grand Forks, and Alfred Perry Vancouver on an expedition when they discovered an immense glacier, 10 miles in width, at 7,000 feet altitude, four days pack from the confluence of Pitt River and Pitt Lake.

The party penetrated to Seven Mile Creek, so named because of its distance from Pitt River. Above timber line they came to the magnificent glacier which stretched into the distance—a glittering expanse of ice, rent asunder in places by vast crevices and chasms surpassing those of the Alps or Ural Mountains.

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Where well repaid

It took 14 hours to cross this stretch of level ice but on the other side the party considered themselves well rewarded as they found deposits of rich mineral-bearing ore. Showing content high in copper and gold this ore encouraged them to search for pockets of the precious metal and when the party decided to return, "Doc" Brown elected to remain.

From time to time towering peaks and crags of ice came toppling down the slopes of the upper glacier with a noise like thunder. Although the spot was unknown except to a privileged few prospectors, it was considered safe for Brown to continue the hunt alone. He is experienced and accustomed to take care of himself in the wildest country. Other members of the original party returned to Vancouver August 12.