

**Scrapbook of Articles Relating to Granite Creek
From the 1888-1892 Daily Colonist Newspaper**

Compiled by Diane Sterne

1888

Nothing

February 19, 1889

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Similkameen Mines.

The gold returns from Granite Creek and Similkameen show an output of over \$75,000. The mining is principally carried on by Chinese. Besides gold about 1200 ounces of platinum were secured. Granite Creek is a large producer of platinum. The winter up to date has been mild.

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April 1, 1890

A RETURN REQUESTED.

Mr. Semlin moved : "That an order of the House be granted for copies of all correspondence between any officer of the government and any person in reference to all the circumstances attending the sale of 160 acres of land, or the refusal to sell said land, to Mr. Fox-crowle P. Cook; said land being situated near the mouth of Granite Creek."

The resolution was adopted.

April 12, 1890

Hon. Mr. Vernon presented a return to an order of the House for correspondence in reference to the sale of 160 acres of land at the mouth of Granite Creek or the refusal to sell said land to Mr. Foxcrowle P. Cook.

September 30, 1890

Mr. H. S. Thompson, of Granite City, says Granite Creek and its tributaries continue to yield a fair golden harvest to the miners engaged in the work there. The majority of the work is done by Chinmen.

December 7, 1890

Rich Specimens.

Mr. A. J. Thompson, who recently came down from Granite Creek brought with him several fine specimens of float rock, which he was exhibiting to admiring friends yesterday. The rock contained bunches and veins of solid gold of the richest and best color.

January 4, 1891

MR. JOSEPH WILSON.

Joseph Wilson, one of the best known citizens of Nelson City, was, on the 15th ult., drowned in Kootenay Lake, while endeavoring to bring over a large load of cattle. Owing to the crowding of the animals the barge was overturned, throwing Mr. Wilson into the water, the darkness rendering it impossible to render him any assistance. The body was recovered, on the Wednesday following, and interred, on the succeeding Saturday.

Joseph Wilson was born in Wellington County, Ontario, in February, 1862. His first venture away from home was in Winnipeg, during the boom. He from there went to Minnesota. From Minnesota to the Cœur d'Alence country: thence to British Columbia, arriving in this province in 1881. In 1885 he was on the Canadian Pacific. He finally got an interest in a pack train, and when the Granite Creek excitement broke out moved the train there. That camp's boom

was short, and 1887 found him at Illecillewaet. In 1889, he came into the Kootenay Lake country, making Nelson his headquarters. That year he brought in beef cattle from Kettle river, and laid the foundation for the business that he carried on this year. This spring, he and his brother secured the contract for furnishing the construction force on the Nelson & Sproat railway with beef, also the contract for packing supplies along the right of way. He was always busy, and no man in the lake country had more rustling enterprise. No man better deserved success. He was liberal and honorable in his dealings; was both kind-hearted and good-natured, seldom uttering a complaint, even when disappointed or worried by bad luck.

May 15, 1891

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S WEALTH.

Rich Platinum and Iridium Mines on the
Tulameen River, Near Granite Creek.

The Westminster correspondent of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says:—"A company of local capitalists has been formed, with a capital of \$40,000, to work immensely rich platinum and iridium mines on Tulameen river. The mines are situated on the Tulameen river, a tributary to the Similkameen, nine miles from Granite creek. They have a water front of five miles, and these are probably the richest platinum mines in the world, besides which the platinum carries 5 per cent. of iridium. The mines are also very rich in gold, having been worked, principally by Chinamen, for the last 30 years for that metal. Until five years ago the platinum deposits were not

known, and a great quantity has been thrown away. During the last five years, however, the yield has been enormous, one miner alone handling thousands of ounces of that valuable metal. The value of the property would be hard to estimate. It has been thoroughly prospected and is known to be rich throughout. The owners intending working it on an extensive scale by the hydraulic system of mining. The supply of platinum in the Ural mountains, hitherto the largest source of supply, is giving out, and the owners claim that in these present mines they have the richest platinum deposits in the world. Platinum is worth \$20 per ounce, and iridium the enormous sum of \$1,400 per pound."

November 11, 1891

NICOLA AND SIMILKAMEEN.

Rev. Father Le Jeune returned a few days ago from his annual journey, occupying about five weeks, into the Nicola and Similkameen districts, by way of Quilchena, as far as Granite Creek and Princeton. On the way out, the farmers and ranchers along the route were in the midst of their threshing, and, having good yields of grain, were in excellent spirits.

At Slate Creek, ten miles this side of Granite Creek, he stopped where Thomas Rabbitt has a store, and went up the creek to look at the hydraulic works, which are in progress of construction at the forks of the Tulameen.

W. T. Thompson, merchant at Granite Creek, is largely interested in the hydraulic company, also several Victoria men. They have a sawmill, which has just begun operations, and are working twenty men and sawing 3,000 feet of lumber a day. As soon as the flume is ready they will have more water, and will increase their cut to 6,000. They are building a flume about a mile long over a natural grade, which will furnish water to the sawmill and hydraulic works, and expect to have everything in

readiness this fall for mining on a large scale next spring. The company has \$15,000 thus far invested. Their expectations of profit are based principally on platinum, although liberal amounts of gold are also found, and they have high hopes for next year. The gravel beds at this place, which were worked by hand labor, are mostly worked out. One old Indian woman, working alone for several years, has rocked out about \$200 each season, and once got a gold nugget worth \$45. This year she has had her usual good luck, and has taken out eight to ten ounces of platinum, and a similar weight of gold. It was found just below where the hydraulic company intends working next summer.

From Slate Creek he proceeded to Granite Creek, a mining camp of about 30 people. They are all making wages, about \$4 to \$5, and perhaps in a few instances something more. Father Le Jeune met a Chinaman who had a nugget found at Granite Creek, which he bought for \$76, and it may be seen at Mr. Saucier's jewellery store. The market price for platinum at Granite Creek is \$7 an ounce.—Inland Sentinel.

May 29, 1892

W. T. Thompson, of Granite Creek, the manager of the Tulameen Hydraulic Company, reports that the preliminary work connected with the operations of the company is now about completed, and that the object for which it was incorporated—the mining of platinum—is about to commence.

July 26, 1892

D. L. Lockerby, of Montreal; George Atwood, J. S. P. Sellow, and E. D. Reynolds, of England; R. G. Tatlow, of Vancouver, and H. G. Hammond, of Toronto, started early in the week for Granite Creek, to explore the gold and platinum mines.

October 4, 1892

Leases have been granted for placer mining in the Granite Creek district to the following named persons, who have each 160 acres on the Similkameen: J. M. Murphy, Mr. Smith, A. E. McDougal, Alex. McDougal, Charles Hope, R. W. Allison, J. F. Allison, B. A. McDougal. On the Tulameen, Rankin & Lyon and H. Richardson have each 160 acres, and Robert Stevenson has a lease on Granite creek of 160 acres. These leases are taken by residents in the locality, and show their confidence in the district. The recent sale of the Tulameen Hydraulic Co.'s property to an English syndicate has encouraged the miners in that district.