

BC Gold Rush Notes

Documentary notes - page 1 - 4
Royal BC museum notes - page 5 - 7
Gold Rush Trail website notes - page 7 -10

Notes and Need To Knows on:

The Edge of the World: BC's Earliest Years

Introduction

For thousands of years BC was home to indigenous people, and the last place on earth to be discovered by Europeans

- The salmon people = there was no salmon in the river - once the river sustained millions of salmon = drawing people from up and down the coast

Many indigenous people came to the opening of the Fraser river to fish - important to trade
Salmon = food source for certain indigenous communities - but returned the salmon to the river to show respect

NTK - Where did the immigrants come from?
Why was there no salmon in the river?
How many people came for the salmon?

Europeans arrive

Spanish island names = before arrival of Cook - all mostly all of the globe had been mapped, but the Spanish wanted to expand their territory = they headed up north to Mexico
In 1774 = they reached BC - took 4 years for Captain Cook to arrive soon after the US arrive + all 3 nations fought over this land
Spain left from conflict and went back south to a 'more agreeable climate'

NTK - What is Spanish BC?
Who was Captain Cook? Did he conquer different territories for the British before going to BC?
How many explorers were sent from Mexico?
Did the Spanish act aggressively towards the indigenous people?
Why did Spanish leave BC so abruptly?

Fraser's river

19th century fur trade going west - Simon Fraser went west to go to Pacific - Fraser went into a canoe with extreme rapids - indigenous peoples defended land thinking of Fraser as a danger
With death defying journey - but not actually reaching the Pacific - Simon Fraser's journey earned an recognition naming that river the 'Mighty Fraser'

NTK - What were Simon Fraser's previous status in Fur Trade? Did his position in that economy fuel his desire to go to West?
Why did Simon Fraser become so famous, even though he was disliked and perceived as a threat by different people?
Why was Simon Fraser's goal to reach the Pacific? What bigger plan did he have?

54-40 or fight

In early 1840s there was a dispute over the Oregon territory w/ the British and US - to show control chief of HBC James Douglas to set a fort on Victoria 'fort Vitoria'
1846 = the dispute was settled at the 49th parallel

NTK - Is the dispute of the Oregon territory in close connection with the gold rush?
Did James Douglas establish the fort before or after the California gold rush?

Birth of BC

In 1850s = there were few white settlers - but in 1858 gold was discovered on the Fraser river - the Victoria population surpassed doubling
From Victoria eager gold seekers went north
James Douglas thought the gold seekers from California would create a dispute over this land = James Douglas went his superiors in Britain making it an official colony with Douglas appointed Governor - BC was born

NTK - What would've happened to BC if James Douglas didn't make the settlement? Would the US or Spanish come and claim the land?
How did gold seekers know about the gold in the Fraser rivers? Who spread the news?
Why was James Douglas on edge about how the gold seekers might cause a land conflict with US annexation? What would happened if his superiors didn't help? Would there be another conflict with other nations?

Dreams of gold

Lured many from their home = one man Joesph Halpenny left Ontario to brave sketchy travel to the west - wanted to go to Williams creek to strike gold = wanted to continue to get gold but then turned back without striking it rich

NTKs - What modes of transportations did the gold seekers take to come to BC?
How long was Joesph Halpenny searching for gold? Is that time a good example to show how long other's journeys were?
What was the percentage of likelihood for a seekers to actually strike it rich?

Fraser canyon war

In 1858's spring there was tension in the Fraser canyon territory - many white gold seekers came from the slaughter of indigenous peoples and continued it in BC - the indigenous people wanting to defend, but the threat from the white people shut down the conflict and they had to let white settlement

Governor Douglas needed Law and Order = he turned to Begbie - became a judge and used a death sentences earning the nickname 'the hanging judge'

NTKs - Why was tension rising in the Fraser river?
Where did the indigenous communities displaced to?
Was the Fraser canyon war the reason part of the reason residential school were used?

Freedom

After the civil war African Americans were slaves = James Douglas offered to give African Americans freedom in Victoria - many families moved to Victoria when the war ended many went back to US = Gibbs went on to be BC first African American official
James Douglas was looking for more people to be loyal to the British crown = hiring them - enforcers

NTKs - How did people find freedom?

How many people African Americans Immigrants went to James Douglas's settlement?
Were there conflicts when they came?
Did this act make white gold seekers complain and dislike James Douglas?
Was there no slavery in the Victoria settlement?
When did the civil war end? What percentage of people stayed in BC when it was over?

Barkerville

William Barker went down river and struck gold = creating a commercial central for nearly 50 years = in present day it's now a historical town
William Barker lost his gold striking fortune by investing in mines that didn't receive income

NTKs - How many gold seekers travel up north?
How many people moved up to Barkerville because of the gold?
Where climate conditions tough to survive in Barkerville?
Did Barkerville stop being a developed town when barker left?

Small Pox

One year the indigenous population was negatively impacted with the infection of the smallpox - coming from a gold seeker from California- very few indigenous survivors = small pox killed two thirds of the indigenous peoples in BC

NTKs - How big did smallpox impact the gold rush?
What specific indigenous communities were affected by this disease?
If a person from California brought it over to BC, does that mean the small pox was spreading across Southern America? If so were there any other indigenous communities survivors from the conflicts affected from this disease?

BC joins Canada

The last spike - unification of Canada - thousands of Chinese immigrants came to Canada - around six thousands were hired = Chinese had no rights - given dangerous jobs and many died (600 dead) to build CPR
1874 Harsh Climates = huge snowstorm hit - many miners were stuck up north but Nelly Cashmen went from California and save starving miners

NTKs - How many deaths were involved in the building of the CPR?
Did the CPR help with tourism and the uplifting the economy of BC?
How much has the CPR been extended further from it's originating state?

Banning Potlatch

potlatch = commemoration - feasting, songs, and dances way of indigenous people to keep their history alive
1884 = federal government outlawed the potlatch - indigenous culture was suppressed - Ban lasted 67 years until indigenous protested against the ban and were able to finally relive it

NTKs - Why was the potlatch banned? Was it because of a conflict?
What was the reasoning behind the governments banning of potlatch?
Why did the white people suppressed the indigenous communities?
Was banning the potlatch a start to the creation of residential schools?
What made the potlatch ban erased in 1951? What protested made this act possible?

Rapid Growth 1885-1900

Felling giants - logging of giant trees = another source of income = challenges - size of trees = hard to move = dangers and risks of fatal injuries = voices were questioning sustainability of this industry

NTKs - How many forests were cleared with logging?
Where did the loggers come from? Were new colonies created to house these loggers?
Did present day Vancouver become a cities because of loggers?
How many people in the past understood the negative impact that logging has on the environment?

Coal miners lament

1887 = miners went to work at coal mines = government warned that mines weren't safe but it went ahead resulting in death of many mine workers

NTKs - How much destruction and death come from mining?
Were colonies destroyed due to mining? If so, which ones? What type of impact did they have on the economy of BC?
What were the different mining disasters in Canadian history? Did they all come from BC?
Did this affect peoples willingness to become miners?

Sandon

Sandon capital of silver mining company = many houses = first town to be fully serviced by electricity = started a race between both CPR and other railway = conflict and CPR railway war = 20th century Sandon caught fire + became a ghost town

NTKs - How many railways were created due to the gold rush? was the gold rush the reason for all development in BC?
How many railway distractions were there?

Disease

Island of Dreams = Chinese people had lepers disease and were isolated on an island = didn't get better and eventually died

NTKs - What diseases came from immigrant to different colonies?
Did the lepers spread? If so, who did it infect?
Was there ever a cure found? If so, who got this cure?

Photography

Photography was involved with Victoria and Mrs. Maynard became the first female photographer - opening studio = contracted to take mugshots and photographed almost everyone in the town

NTKs - How did art develop from these times?
What other forms of art was in BC at these times?
Did art give another reason for future tourism in BC?

Birth of Vancouver

Vancouver was a rainforest = all Timbers with indigenous peoples = European settlers were attracted by the trees and water + logging started = Gassy Jack helped sawmills factory workers = gas town/Granville = a few shack houses

20 years was just a few houses on the edge of a swamp until the CPR made it a commercial city = Vancouver = population exploded and it became modernized

NTKs - What caused Vancouver to be developed? Did people pass through Vancouver before it was created to find gold on the mainland?

Was logging the main occupation of the people of gas town?

If the CPR created Vancouver, did it create any other cities?

When did the population in Vancouver explode? Was it created as a tourist destination?

BC's Gold Rush Notes on:

Royal BC Museum Website

Overview of BC's Gold Rush

Thousand of years people searched for gold = using it in jewellery + ceremonial objects = uprising of myths = Colombia's El Dorado myth - story of a city of endless gold = answering many gold seeker's dreams

1800s = world gold rushes occur - renewing passions of gold by the people = people strike it rich in Australia, California and the colony about to become - British Columbia

1858 = Many arrived when gold was discovered on the Fraser river = changing the Pacific Northwest forever

Gold rush = connecting British Columbia to the rest of the world = hundreds of ships of eager American, European, South American and Australian gold seekers

This leads to the Chinese creating trading networks across the Pacific Ocean to China + the western oldest Jewish community started with the gold rush + BC's first Black settlers arrived

Lives changed for the Indigenous Peoples = their natural environment Changed by settlers = thousands of miners/gold seekers moving up the Fraser river - changing the river flow, adding roads and cutting down forests

Videos - BC's Gold Rush ([link](#))

Gold and Fossils - [link](#)

Modern day = some beaches contain millions of year old fossils and treasures = chance that nuggets of gold could be found

Geological origins of gold = tectonic map shows rock collisions = mountain building and folds in the rock happen = minerals escape from rock mountains = the minerals wash up to the North American continent

As you go deeper the rocks heat up more = mobilizing minerals such as gold = starting the gold rush in Victoria = 200 thousands oz of gold was taken by gold seekers + the main mother load wasn't found

Connection between gold and fossils = the particular types of rocks can be associated w/ the age = gold in rocks

Textile conservator - [link](#)

Textile conservator = Colleen Wilson = dress of a collector in the gold rush-era = fixing damaged silks/fabric = way things are built show history + artifacts are documents of the past - 19th century dress

Shirley Chan - [link](#)

Came here for the lure of gold = never struck a rich + ended up working on the railroad = faces lots of heart-ship an racism but didn't give up = if the Chinese people didn't come for the gold rush lots of the Canadian Chinese history would be here, in present day

Back to previous class discussion:

Why is Joseph Halpenny's description of miners as "healthy, hearty, and strong" important?

Being as stated in the video Shirley Chan didn't give up proving that miners/gold seekers were 'healthy, hearty, and strong.'

Listening - BC's Gold Rush ([link](#))

During BC's gold rush there was diverse music - from European, American, and Chinese miners = this music would be played in a gathering for a drink + dance or sitting in a cabin or tent = conveying humour and excitement during hardship + isolation

Brainstorm question: Each recording is a different collection of songs. Do you recognize any of them? What can these songs tell us about the people who lived during the gold rush?

Gold Rush Music Collection 1 = the upbeat celebrating fun time jig - there seems to be many feet tapping showing that there are many people gathering to dance - the energy seems to be in a pub location = the miners have some time to have a good time and find togetherness instead of being isolated from the world around them

Gold Rush Music Collection 2 = a more mellow 'fancier' tune = this shows that some people's music taste was different and more classy showing that there are possible social classes in the gold rush - era

Gold Rush Music Collection 3 = this collection seems to be instrumental and emotional - this shows that some people in this era were in a rough state and felt the negative impact that being in isolation + working for long periods of gold that wasn't generally found

Visual - BC's Gold Rush - ([link](#))

Learning Activity: look closer at images relate to BC gold rush. How would you describe the picture?

Image 1 = an older looking man in a chair - looks exhausted - probably was a miner. Image 2 = huge gold nuggets are displayed w/ a small plate like bowl w/ smaller gold pieces - this shows that there were different quantity values in gold found. Image 3 = a gold scale that was manufactured for California - proving that the Californian gold rush had impact on the BC rush.

1858 = start of the Fraser river rush = first large group of Chinese people go to BC in search of 'Gold Mountain' Gold mountain = a land of opportunities, promise and wealth = these are the miners know as 'Gold Mountain Sojourners'

From the images it shows that the Gold Mountain Sojourner used different devices/equipment which seem to be more ancient and less convenient in comparison to some European equipment.

Read - Canadian History Project - BC Gold Rush ([link](#))

1858 - 1863 = gold fever penetrated the interior of BC = two gold rushes brought thousands of prospectors in the previously marked fur-trading territory = conflict w/ the indigenous peoples

Activity and attention = the mainland led to an increasing amount of development = the colony of Victoria was affected = a boost for farmers, merchants, hotel owners + builders = most miners passed through Victoria before the journey to find gold in the Fraser river mainland

Placer mining = the mining practiced in the two gold rushes (and in the Klondike gold rush) = this is the process of washing loose sand or gravel for gold - this method is considered cheap because other technology and investments aren't required

1858 = The first flood of miners = the Fraser river gold rush - brought over 30,000 people to the shores of the river - coming from Hope to Lillooet = most of the gold seekers were Americans coming for new opportunities from the California gold rush = the British wanted to prevent an American invasion = the New Caledonia district was a colony in 1858 - called British Columbia + to institute justice upon Americans the British appointed Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie

1860-63 = more Canadian + British prospectors were involved w/ the Cariboo Gold Rush = the commercial centre for the Cariboo was Barkerville (named after William Barker - an English seaman would find gold on Williams Creek in 1862)

1865 = surface placer gold in was almost gone + Barkerville was basically wiped out of the mineral = from the Cariboo Gold Rush Governor James Douglas built a 650-km road from Yale into the interior of the Cariboo mountains = the provided transportation route for future development in the mainland colony

Notes by Alicia Hepburn

Gold Rush History:

[gold rush trial website](#)

1857 = gold was discovered on the Fraser river - spring 1858 = James Douglas sent 800oz of gold to the San Francisco Mint - knowing that spreading word of the gold's arrival would cause prospectors for California, Australia, Mexico, Europe, and China to arrive in Victoria + New Westminster

April of 1858 = within the weeks of the first ships arrival in Victoria thousands make the journey up the Fraser river + in the interior of BC = indigenous people are essential to the survival of these gold seekers = they trade w/ them and provide food + canoes + acted as guides

People flooding into BC = James Douglas didn't want history to repeat itself + lose territory to the Americans - he petitioned to Queen Victoria = the establishment of BC in 1858 + a crown colony, Fort Langley, w/ James Douglas as 1st governor

1858-1867 = Cariboo gold rushes = people came from all over the world = people from Scotland, England, Germany + China (many leaving their homes from optical confusion, violence + discrimination = these people were risk takers + adventure drawn w/ the hope of wealth, prosperity + better living condition + social freedom)

Victoria selected for a Hudson's Bay Company POS - 1843

Fort Victoria was a fur trading post for the HBC + eventually grew to the capital of BC = the headquarters of the HBC, at the time of Victoria being founded, was Fort Vancouver (on the Lower Columbia River) = it struggled to earn profit + location was hard to defend + inaccessible for ships + too far from the profit-making furs in New Caledonia

1843 = the HBC sent James Douglas to build a fort on the north of Vancouver island + made him Chief Factor

California Gold Rush - 1848

1848 - late 1850s = The first gold rush in North America = the California gold rush started when gold was found by James W. Marshall (in Sutter's Mill Colima, California)

1848 = The first to travel and hear confirmed information about the rush = residents of Oregon + Hawaii (Sandwich Islands), western Mexico, Central America = around 300,000 people came to California + of these people about half arrived by sea + the other half from the west on the California Trail and the Gila River Trail = the gold rush attracted 10 of thousands from Latin America, Europe, Australia + Asia

Vancouver Island Became a British Colony - 1849

1849 = constitutional history began = the creation by the Imperial Government of a proprietary colony based on a west model (Vancouver Island) = March 1850 - Richard Blanshard formally assumed office as Colony of Vancouver Island

Sir James Douglas was Appointed the Second Governor of the Colony of Vancouver 1851

The Cariboo had lots of miners from all over Europe and North America, far from families, governments, and other civilizing influences, desperate for gold + there wasn't roads or courthouses, or post offices = it's still wasn't "wild" because of James Douglas (Governor) - he was confident, intelligent and decisive

The Fraser River Gold Rush - 1858

1858 = Fort Victoria was small = no more than 500 immigrants (mostly HBC employees) were there = in two months the population grew to over 20,000 (almost overnight) = Fort Victoria became a tent city

BC Is Established as a crown colony - 1858 to 1866

1851 - 1864 = James Douglas was the Governor of the Colony of Vancouver

1857 = Americans and British were beginning to respond to rumours of gold in the Thompson river instantly 10 to 20 thousand men moved into the region, sparking the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush

The Canyon War - 1858

The indigenous peoples of the Fraser Canyon wanted to discuss an agreement w/ the miners + the Colony of BC before allow them to enter their territory (Fraser Canyon) = a series of brief battles were fought - a number of indigenous communities were destroyed + death was brought amount them = the war ended w/ the arrival of Governor Douglas + the Royal Engineers in Yale

Cariboo Gold Rush - 1860s

Around 6,000-7,000 Chinese immigrants came to BC = they came to look for gold up the Fraser River or set up a business = 1860-63 = there were more Canadian + British prospectors involved w/ the Cariboo Gold Rush = the commercial centre for this gold rush was Barkerville

Lillooet is know for it's camels = 1860s = miners came up w/ the idea to use camels in the canyon + the experiment wasn't a success (last camel to be in the area was in 1905)

The Overlanders - 1862

June 1861 = the Overlanders left Fort Gary (present day Winnipeg) for the Cariboo gold rush + with many early miners Barker began in the American gold scene in mid-1800s = rumours of gold in the Fraser River were developing - without much success in California he went in BC (w/ a group called the "Overlanders") = eventually they made it to the location that houses Barkerville + a small town began to spring up - nickname called 'Richfield'

Without much success in Barkerville many questioned his decision = but on august 17th, 1862 he struck gold with his crew = later on Barkerville burned down, but w/ reconstruction it was build back up

BC joins confederation - 1871

After confederation in 1867 - the Colony of Vancouver debated joint the new government superiority = 1871 = the federal government promised to build a railway connecting the coast to Canada + the 12,000 non-native residents of the colony agreed to join = on July 20th, 1871 British Columbia became the sixth province

Female gold rush pioneers

Many female prospectors searched the rivers of BC w/ the men (or in partnership w/ their family) = there was a lack of women in the gold rush era = the woman we generally brides for miners

Chinese Prospectors

1858 = many hopeful immigrants came to port Victoria + travelled to the interior and the first Chinatown in Canada was founded in the 1850s = by the 1860s there was around 7,000 Chinese immigrants living in BC during it's gold rushes

The Chinese people created their own community to support networks based on their traditional societies = community hubs were formed and chinatowns emerged

Discrimination towards Asian people prevented the Chinese from prospecting anywhere other than abandoned sites = they didn't make much money because of this

Notes by Alicia Hepburn

Gold Rush Notes:

Discoveries of gold in sandbars of the Fraser river caused the first arrivals of experienced miners in 1858 from the previous Californian Gold Rush of 1849

August 2nd 1858 - year the imperial act established the mainland colony of BC - Britain declared the mainland a separate British colony

Douglas was in charge of who was able to access the gold fields, making the Americans unhappy - in 1859 the 'Pig War' happened on San Juan Island (giving the military commander the ability to send in forces and give an optimistic report to the commander-in-chief of the US army)

Mid-1800s the Fraser River Gold Rush was nearly over and the colonies went in debt from building gold - to save money, Britain folded the Vancouver Island colony into it's BC counterpart in 1866

The long-term future status of the BC united colony was in debated - Arrivals in British North America sought entry into the newly created Canadian, yet others sought annexation to the US

American expansionism came and the day after the 1867 British North America Act received royal approval, the US purchased Alaska from Russia (lead by the American fuelling Manifest Destiny)

Even though the British Royal Navy felt it was inconvenient to give up the BC settlement, the Americans continued their efforts. In August 1869 the it was reported to the US secretary that BC was petitioning in favour of annexation, but in the end barley any signatures were collected and no further actions took place.

On July 1871 British Columbia joined the confederation, becoming the sixth Canadian province. It was a huge portion of land (more than twice and Oregon combined), but the population of settlement was area one-tenth of the 110,000 population in both American territories.

Notes: Fort Victoria was a fur trading post for the HBC + eventually grew to the capital of BC = the headquarters of the HBC, at the time of Victoria being founded, was Fort Vancouver (on the Lower Columbia River) = it struggles to earn profit + location was hard to defend + inaccessible for ships + too far from the profit-making furs in New Caledonia
1843 = the HBC sent James Douglas to build a fort on the north of Vancouver island + made him Chief Factor

Paragraph: In 1843 Fort Victoria was a fur trading post, under the rule of HBC. But, Fort Vancouver was the headquarter of HBC at the

Chilcotin War - [Link](#)

April 29th 1864 - end of May, 19th = road-builders, packers and farmers = deadliest series of attacks by Indigenous people on immigrants in western Canada

Those dead were trying to change the inaccessible places = plateau = within bc = an attempt to build a road from the coast to the goldfields =

the territory of the Tsilhqot'in people = the people who lived on the Chilcotin Plateau - the survivors of the attacks said that the Tsilhqot'in Chief, Lhat's'a's'in, was involved with 20 of the killings = on October 26th 1864 Lhat's'a's'in and four other Tsilhqot'in people were hanged for the killing = but 150 years later the government acknowledge that these weren't murders, but instead a defensive war to protect their territories

Context

March 13th, 1862 = a gold seeker who had small pox brought death to tens of thousands on Vancouver Island = spread throughout the mainland colony + throughout indigenous communities

William barker finds gold = the cariboo gold rush is formed = Barkerville became a commercial centre = the colony faced supplying issues due to it's location = a road had to be build = the road had to cross the Indigenous peoples land = they didn't want that because it seems like an invasion = this led to the bloody confrontation w/ the Tsilhqot'in peoples

War

Perspective on events = the Tsilhqot'in people attacked and killed unsuspecting civilians or they were defending their territory against lethal threats

The main issue that formed this conflict was the delay in communication = because of the distance from the cariboo to the capitals and Victoria it took up to 6 months for the British Colonial Office in London to receive information + send instructions back = the colonial officials were responding and implementing their thoughts to events around two weeks late

Aftermath

The methods used to capture Lhat's'a's'in = unease over the judge + Governor, but the trails still proceeded - trails = a recap of the events - and shows the voice of indigenous peoples = a rare insight into Tsilhqot'in motivations

A month after the trails = the British Army looking over the plateau for any other member but could'nt any

Lhat's'a's'in Said there were 21 involved w/ the events but only nine were tried + 7 convicted

When the British Army left the Tsilhqot'in had full poison of their territory

Chilcotin war [link](#)

- The Tsilhqot'in First Nations were largely unaffected by the English colonists settling BC
- They lived in the interior while the settlers were mainly in Victoria and New Westminster, which were the colonial capitals
- The Cariboo Gold Rush was fully booming when British aristocrat Alfred Waddington planned to build the fastest route to the goldfields
- The road was to go through the Tsilhqot'in peoples territory
- Smallpox had hit Victoria and Waddington's team carried with its them as they started making their way north
- Within weeks, 2/3 of the Tsilhqot'in population had died
- In 1864, the Tsilhqot'in showed up at Waddington's camp, begging for food in exchange of their labour
- Some flour was stolen from the storehouse and an angry road builder confronted the Tsilhqot'in...he said he would bring smallpox back to their community
- It was a serious threat as the Tsilhqot'in were still feeling the effects of 2/3 of their population dying
- Cheif Klatsassin led 24 warriors in a surprise attack at dawn which killed 12 road crew
- Two other attacks took place as well
- It enraged settlers throughout British Columbia and Vancouver Island
- Governor Frederick Seymour, recently arrived from Britain to BC, asked to meet with the First Nations people to talk about what was happening
- The Tsilhqot'in thought it was going to be a peaceful meeting and only sent 8 out of their 24 men
- When they arrived they were arrested and charged with murder, all of them were hung
- Before Klatsassin's death, he said "We meant war, not murder", it could be argued that they did win the war

Source 1

Summary of Chilcotin War:

The Tsilhqot'in First Nations lived on the Chilcotin plateau in the interior of BC while British colonists lived mainly in Victoria and New Westminster. Alfred Waddington, a British aristocrat, planned to build a road to the Cariboo Gold Rush through the Tsilhqot'in First Nations land. Waddington's team carried smallpox with them as they built the road, which was spread to the Tsilhqot'in peoples, and ended up killing two thirds of their population within weeks. In 1864, the Tsilhqot'in came to Waddington's camp begging for food and resources as so many of their people had died. Some flour was stolen from the camp and an angry road builder threatened to bring small pox back into the Tsilhqot'in community and this was a massive threat as the virus had already killed two thirds of their population. This caused Cheif Klatsassin, the Cheif of the Tsilhqot'in people to lead 24 warriors to a surprise attack held at dawn, killing 12 people of the road crew. When news spread, it enraged settlers throughout British Columbia, including

Vancouver Island, causing a scheme to take place. Governor Fredrick Seymour recently arrived in British Coloumbia from Britain and asked to meet with the indigenous population to have a discussion about the events. The Tsilhqot'in people thought it would be a peaceful trial, but the Governer tricked them and had them held for a trail. This resulted in the arrest of Cheif Klatsassin and some of his warrior for the charge of murder, and they were all hung.