

Small pox.

Colonist files

1862-3

Mar 17 '62: No truth that Boston Bar Indians have it.

Apr 26 '62: Indians say it has reached Ft Simpson  
Dr Helmcken has vacc 200 Inds here "since the disease first made its appearance here"

Indians dread measles & smallpox above all other diseases  
3 "Creating fearful savages at the Chimsean village <sup>(in fact)</sup>. Twenty have died within the past few days; four died yesterday --- Great alarm exists at the village ---

Mar 19 '62: 1 case of smallpox in man from San Francisco, where it is said to be raging.

Mar 22 '62 1 minor case in New West.

Mar 26 '62 Editorial: Sm has been int from S. F. Cases should be quarantined. "Imagine ... what a fearful calamity it would be, were the horde of Indians on the outskirts of the town to take the disease."  
2

Mar 28 '62 Reported outbreak in Songish village. Dr H. vacc. some 30 by order of Govt.

Apr 28 '62 Editorial: (I told you so) remains to be seen if it can be confined to Chimseans

4 Let's move all Indians away & burn their houses. Great danger of spread. (Indians had been there 4 years)

News: 12 cases yesterday in Chimsean encampment. Bodies buried. There are 300 Chims there. about 10% hit.

Apr 29 '62

Chims. ordered out of town  
2 deaths, 2 new cases yesterday  
Songhies leaving for San Juans

Apr 30

Another death Chimesan      2 new cases  
2 Chinese cases  
All Indians ordered to leave town  
Chim & Songh leave today for one of the islands in the straits

Apr 31

30 canoes of Ft Rupert Indians arrived here yesterday  
Chimesan camp burned

May 5

2 cases of violent type among Ft Ruperts here.

May 6 '62

"Chimesans, with their sick, are reported to have gone north"  
The Songish Indians have taken refuge from the small-pox on  
Discovery Island."

May 7

11 cases among Ft Ruperts

May 8

Remove all Indians from vicinity      "Among the Indians, the  
disease is making frightful inroads"      Chimesans, Ft Ruperts  
7 cases among Hydahs (hiding at)      At Ross' farm 12 cases among  
Stickeens

May 9

Chims passed Cadb Bay a week ago on way north. The  
Island on which they have settled is not known. The  
Indians encamped beyond Laurel Point were Stickeens

May 12

Trying to remove Hydahs & Ruperts from Reserve  
Songh are on Discovery. Have had no cases  
Chims & Stickeens and their sick are encamped on small islands in  
Canal de Haro

'The small-pox is creating fearful savages among all the northern tribes.'

May 13 '62 : N Indians will be moved to one of islands in the Straits. Killing 6 per day.

May 14 100 huts burned of N Indians 22 cases.

Deaths among all tribes <sup>on Reserve</sup> to present will reach 100, and number on those camped on Islands in Canal de Haro

May 15 Indian huts at Esquimaux have been destroyed with fire by Police.

May 19 '62 Small pox at Port Ludlow on Sound among an encampment of Chemsans. . . . nearly all are down with the disease.

May 24 3 Indian deaths

May 27 Rev Barrett visited Ogden Point and found that of seventy Indians there encamped thirty were down with the small pox in its most virulent form! The ravages committed by this dreadful disease among the native tribes in this vicinity is frightful, and we have no doubt that . . . at least one-third of all the Northern Indians who were until lately encamped on the Reserve . . . have already died under its influence!

May 28 Police turning out all Indians in town

May 31 18 cases in Ind smf hospital 17 at Ogden Pt.

June 2 '62

7 more northern Indians died

"... not a single Flathead has, as yet, fallen a victim -"

3 cases at Cadboro Bay

June 5

27 cases at keewee

"Out of 100 Indians who encamped at Ogden's Point four weeks since, about 15 remain alive, and but few of the Chimeane who were sent to the Island near Cadboro Bay are left. ... the disease has attacked the Nanaimo Indians"

June 6

Ogden Pt Indians (Hydahs) - found wiped out - bodies lying around. The last 10 or 12 had left for North, taking sick with them. Bodies found buried under floor of houses. Officers burned the houses, spread quick-lime on remains.

Snap has broken out in ravine back of Johnstone Street.

June 7

6 new cases brought to "hospital" (to die)  
1 Chinese death.

June 12

Good bye to the Northerners

Police went to Cadboro Bay & sent 26 canoes, 300 Indians off north home. Edensah, chief of the Hydahs, reported only one sick man in the tribe. 20 canoes of Hydahs, 5 with Queen Charlotte Islanders, 1 Stickeen. Gunboat to accompany past Nanaimo for protection.

Four short years ago, numbering their braves by the thousands, they were the scourge and terror of the coast; today - - -  
etc

June 13 '62

Search bears ~~at~~ Esquilet Indians are on warpath

June 14

Report that Indians sent north are dying off. Sick Indians put ashore to die alone. Predicts all Indians not vacc will die this summer

June 19

Ravages continue unabated. At least 10 white patients in town. No of Swashes afflicted really impossible to estimate.

June 21

Report The small pox had not yet got going among the Indians there; [bella Coola] but the Bella Bellas were dying off very fast from its effects"

"The savages ... at Rupert had been frightful. The tribe native to that section was nearly exterminated. Forty out of sixty Hydahs who left Victoria ... about a month ago, had died

... At one encampment, about twelve miles above Nanaimo, Capt. Osgood counted twelve dead Indians ... the whole party had been swept away...

At Nanaimo, one Indian died, 1 white, of ampx. A French doctor was at Ft Rupert vaccinating the few survivors of that tribe ...

June 24

Report no Nanaimo Indians suffering from ampx

June 30 '62

Small pox has reached Harrison Lake and is spreading among the Indians. Five or six cases have occurred

July 1 '62 The Esquilets: This late powerful and warlike tribe, residing for centuries near Cape Mudge, ... are dying from small pox in scores. (Got disease from murdering 4-5 Hydahs in a canoe & took all belongings, divided plunder)

July 7 The small pox seems to have exhausted itself, for want of material to work upon ... One or two Indians die nearly every day ... "The northerners, as tribes, are now nearly exterminated" etc.

July 11 News from Stickeen. No mention of disease. The Indians are friendly and numerous

July 11 Capt. Whitford counted over 100 bodies of Indians who had died from the small pox between Kefeaux and Nanaimo. In some cases, attempts had been made to burn the dead. "The small pox had not reached Stickeen, thanks to a French doctor and the Rev. Mr. Duncan ... at St Simpson, its ravages in that section are almost stayed."

July 16 At Bella Bella only about 40 of the tribe were found alive; the remainder had been swept off by the small pox.

July 18 News from Stickeen. No smpl among the Indians

July 21 ditto. The Indians have only 2 sm patients "but the upper Indians suffer severely from that horrible disease." [hit on Sept]

July 22 The Cowichans - The small pox only claimed one Indian in this tribe .... The Catholic priests have vaccinated the entire tribe.

Aug 5 '62 Letter from Nanaimo on 1 case of smplx & precautions being taken makes it plain that it hadnt hit here hard.

Aug 6 The small pox is at Salmon River (not ident.)

Aug 7 The small pox has reached the Sooke Indians. Charlecum, the big chief, lately died... and others of the tribe are sick.

Aug 18 - rumored outbreak on Johnston Street 2 squares

Bella Coola Report: ... we camped, near the Bella Coola lodges, where the small-pox was raging fearfully, Indians lying about in all directions, dead and dying...

Aug 26 half a dozen cases on Ind Reserve

Sept 8 2 white men

Oct 9 7 Indians have died on reserve from smplx

Nov 14 Still continuing at Sooke, several deaths of late

Dec 3 Cowichans hit. Four died last Friday, great number sick. This tribe has hitherto escaped the general epidemic

Dec 4 Cowichans all vaccinated, epidemic checked.

Dec 9 Cowichan: A few deaths still occurring among Indians. Chiefly old women.. "The old people of the tribe relate that some 30 or 40 years ago - a great smallpox epidemic

- Dec 9 '62

Lillooet letter

Report that at mouth of Ouesnelle nearly all the Indians are down with the small pox. The majority of the tribe had died. Caught from Bute Inlet Indians. Heavy on the new trail

Jan 5 1863: Whites had smallpox at Ouesnelle, Beaver Lake, L.L. Hache. Indians (40) died at Beaver Lake.

Jan 15' Bentrick Arm - - fearful ravages amongst Indians and whites, "About two-thirds of the Indians had died, and their bodies were strewn over the ground..."

Kuskus ... Kloocans, an Indian village, where some time previously fully 80 Indians were living, - only 2 children had not been cut off by the smpx - -

Bonaparte - 2 squaws had died

Jan 29 Bonaparte - smpx has not spread  
Douglas - " on decline

Jan 30 In bc: Whenever the native popn are found, there the smpx is fearfully prevalent. So get vaccinated

Feb 27 Disappeared at Beaver Lake, abated at Wms Lake, "The Indians, from the Forks of Ouesnelle down to and including Lillooet, have nearly all been carried off by the epidemic, which has been raging among them all the season. The survivors have sad tales to tell of the dreadful scourge which has wrought such fearful havoc among their friends. A Lillooet report sets down the number of



- natives who succumbed to the violence of the disease at 170, and what was once a powerful tribe of warriors is now reduced to a few miserable beings."

After this, Colomst doesn't seem to have been searched until May 1866

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